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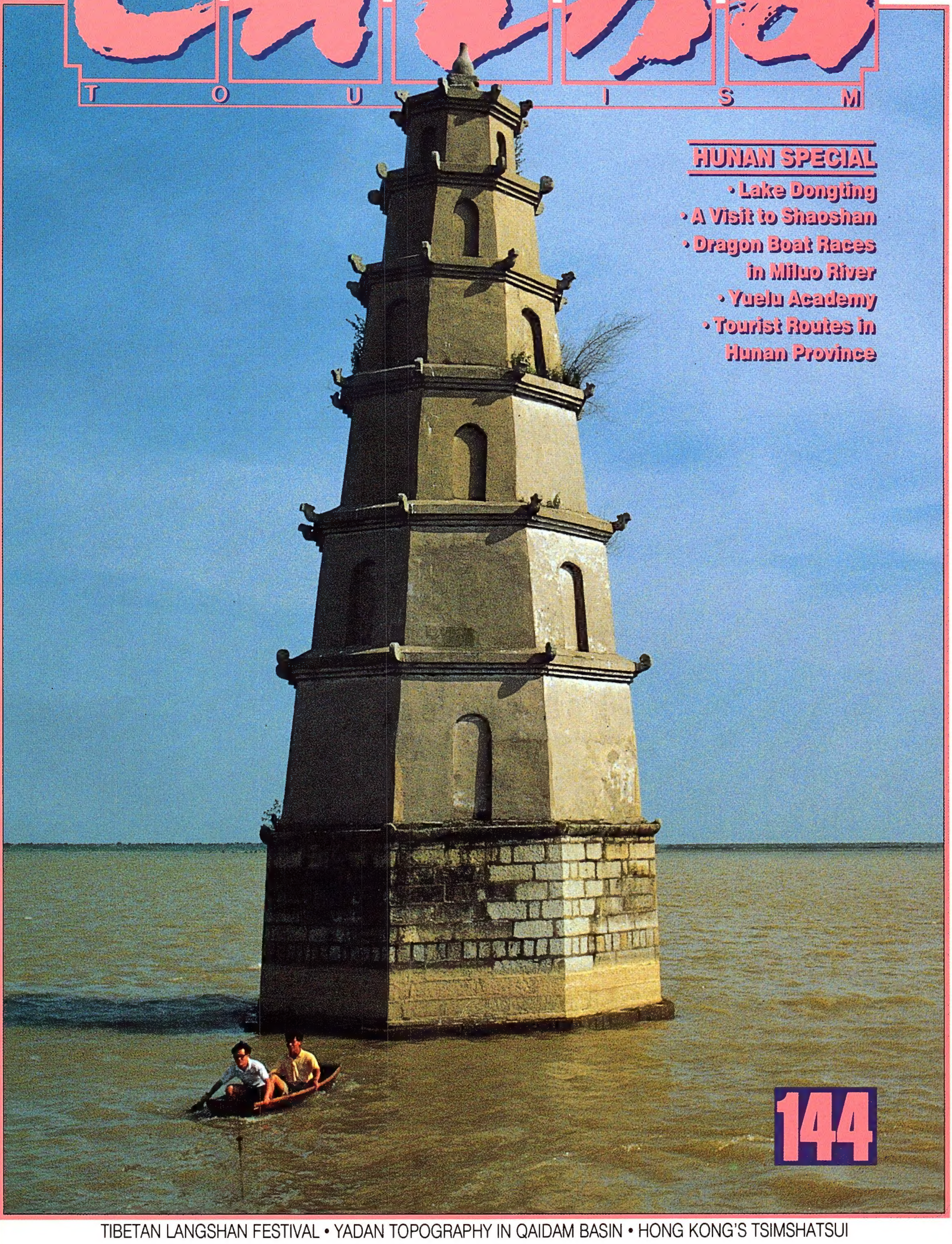
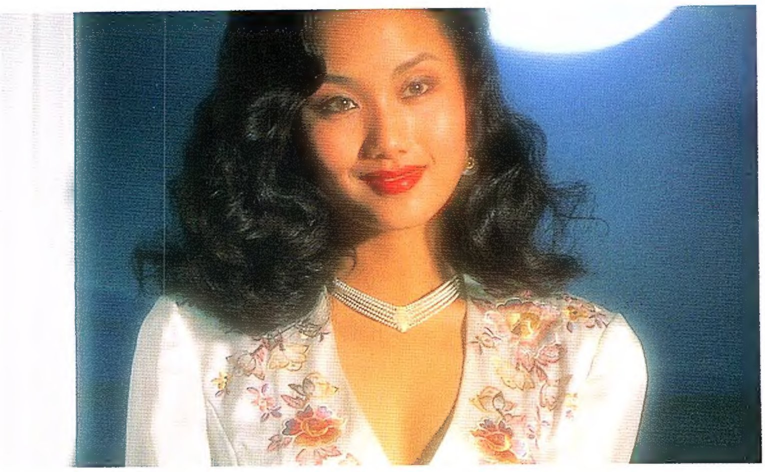


HUNAN SPECIAL

- Lake Dongting
- A Visit to Shaoshan
- Dragon Boat Races in Miluo River
- Yuelu Academy
- Tourist Routes in Hunan Province

144

TIBETAN LANGSHAN FESTIVAL • YADAN TOPOGRAPHY IN QAIDAM BASIN • HONG KONG'S TSIMSHATSUI



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EDITORIAL

Hunan Province Defined by a Lake

The name Hunan, translated literally, means "south of the lake", that is, south of Lake Dongting. The lake, China's second largest freshwater body, defines the province; thus, it is fitting that many of the feature stories in this issue focus on Lake Dongting and its immediate environs.

We start off by taking you on a boat trip on Lake Dongting, visiting some of its islets and historical sites. From this glimpse of the lake, you can understand why some of China's most renowned poets composed verse celebrating the natural splendour of the lake. One of the first of these poets was Qu Yuan, who is honoured during the Dragon Boat Festival. As the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated during June, it is appropriate that we journey to the Miluo River near Lake Dongting. This is the very same river where Qu allegedly drowned himself in protest more than two thousand years before, during the later years of the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.).

Hunan's contributions to history, literature and philosophy were to become even more significant than even Qu could have imagined. We visit the site of the Yuelu Academy, once one of China's four great learning institutions during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). We also take you to Shaoshan, a pleasant little town which is the birthplace of Mao Zedong and the ancestral home of the Mao family.

Besides these noteworthy sites of interest in the province, we take you along some of the more interesting tourist routes in Hunan. En route, we pass through a number of historical sites as well as gaze upon some panoramic mountaintop views. Perhaps the most famous lines describing a place in Hunan were penned by the Song Dynasty poet Fan Zhongyan (989-1052). He was writing about Yueyang Tower, but could just as well have been describing the province and its history: "From the dawn's first glimmer to the glow of dusk, the tower is blessed with a thousand changing faces."

We invite you to turn the pages and begin to discover the myriad attractions that Hunan has to offer.

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Front Cover: The octagonal Zhenjiang Pagoda erected in 1782 in Lake Dongting at Lianhua'ao *(by Tai Chi Yin)*

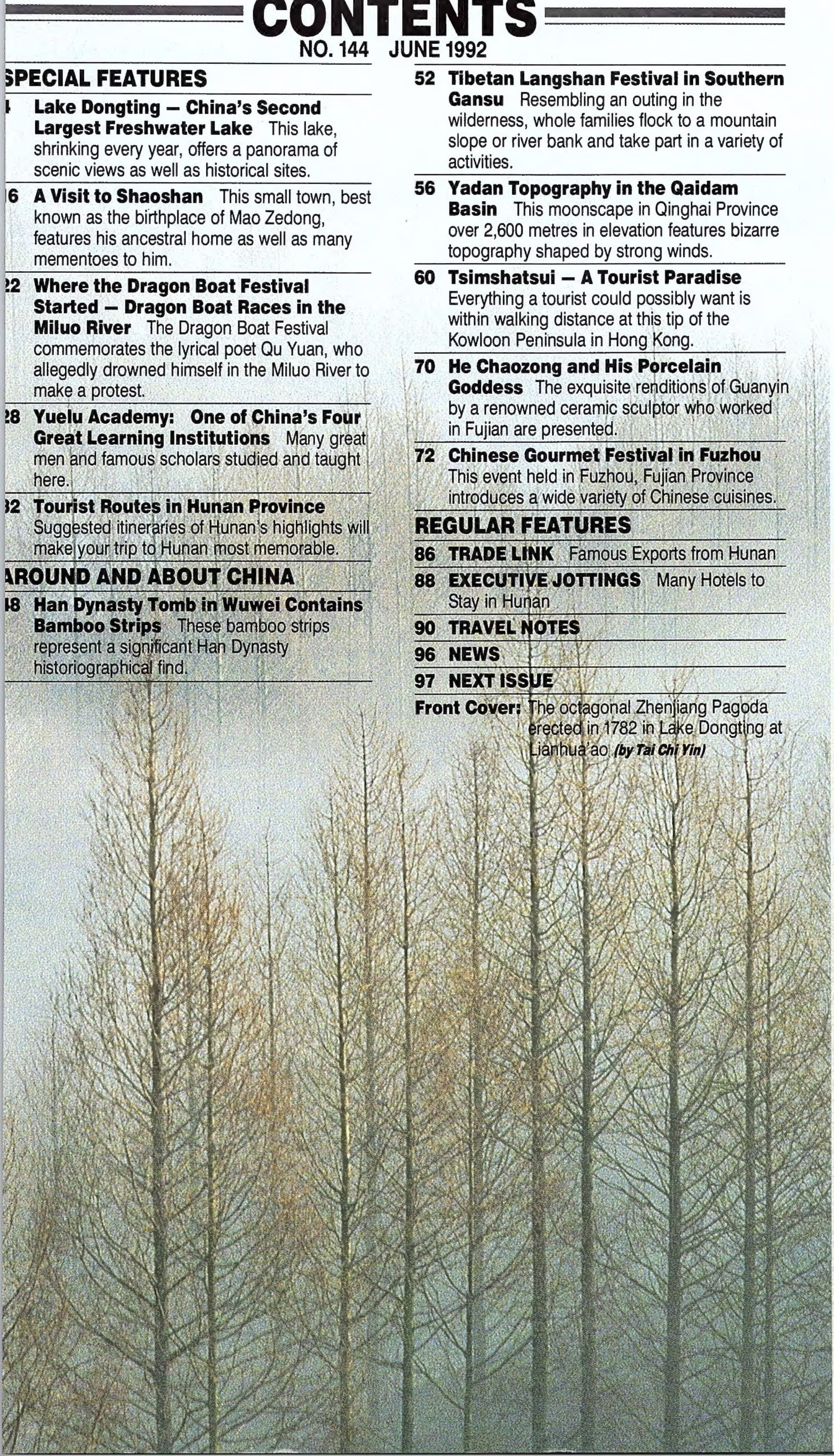

Photo by Tai Chi Yin

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Lake Dongting

China's Second Largest Freshwater Lake

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY TAI CHI YIN

I tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep, one June night last year when I stayed in a hotel in the town of Yuanjiang in Hunan for I was too excited thinking about my boat tour of Lake Dongting, the second largest freshwater lake in China, the next day.

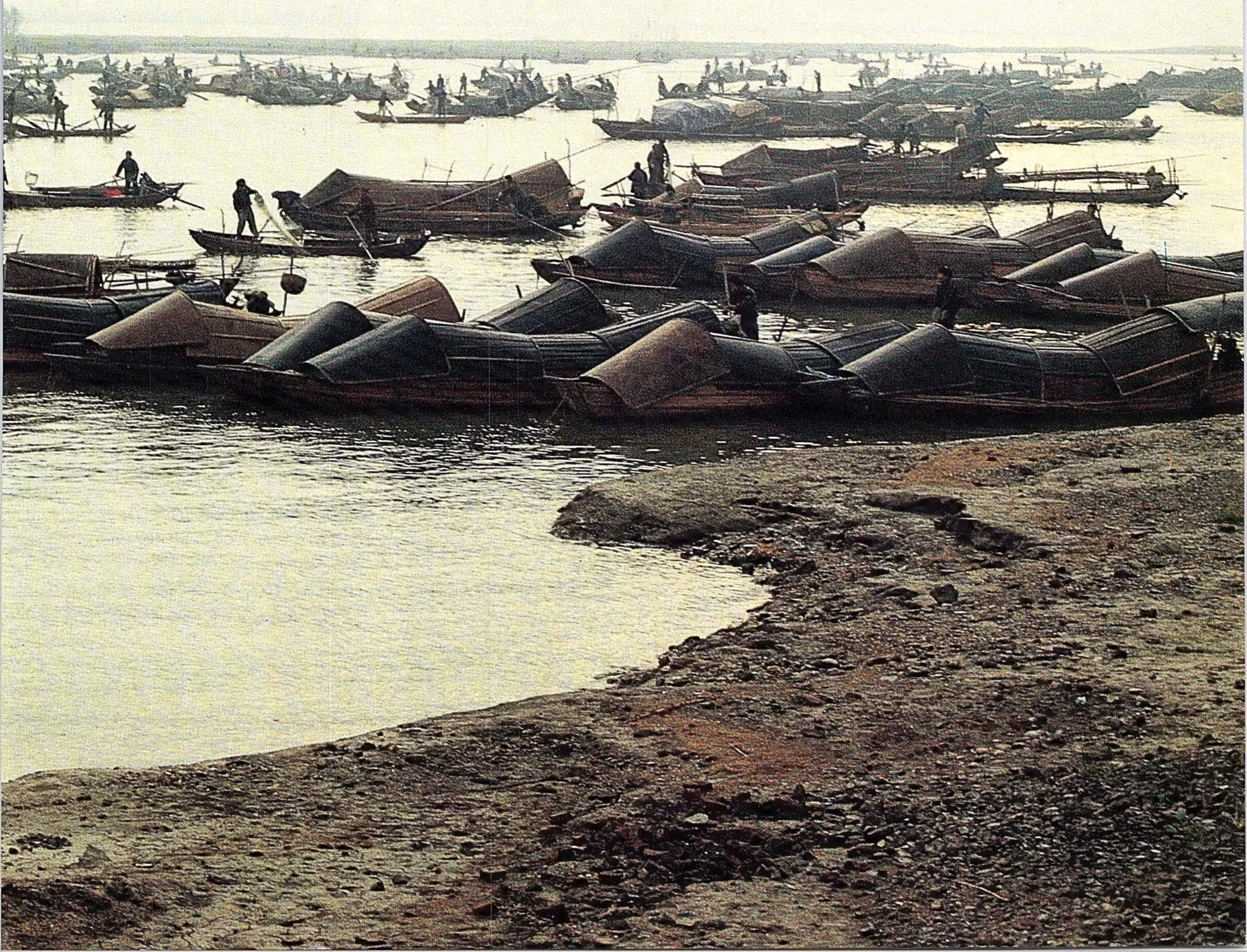
In order to take pictures of the scenes in Lake Dongting in different seasons, I have twice been to Lake Dongting, the first time in June and the second time in November.

A Boat Trip on Lake Dongting

At six o'clock in the morning of June 29, when I arrived at the lake shore, a bright crimson sun gave the lake water a reddish tinge.

Top Left:
Many people in the Lake Dongting area live by the lake. Most people here believe that this magic beast is able to subdue flood and keep away evil spirits.

Late in the 11th lunar month every year, fishing season begins after a grand ceremony known as Kaihu. The picture shows several hundred boats sailing out to fish together.



Yuanjiang, surrounded by water on three sides, is the largest town in the southern lake area. Several hundred boats, big and small, were moored at nearby docks. There were medium-sized boats for transportation of goods for the town and small, simple fishing boats ready to go fishing deep in the lake.

As soon as we got on a boat, the boatman started the engine. A girl who was standing on the bow pushed a long bamboo pole against the bank and the boat sailed off towards north, beginning our lake tour.

Lake Dongting, situated south of the Yangtse River, borders on Hunan and Hubei Provinces. Four rivers in Hunan flow directly into the lake, namely the Xiangjiang, Zishui, Yuanjiang and Lishui. The Yangtse River is also connected to Lake Dongting by canals, and the lake has been used to regulate the rampaging river.

During the flood season, the upper reaches of the Yangtse River are in spate. Because of too many bends along the middle of the Yangtse and the narrow channel of the river here, water in this part has nowhere to go but to surge ahead. Therefore, up to 40 per cent of the river water can be led from four places along its southern bank to Lake Dongting, which serves as a large reservoir, thus abating the threat of floods in the lower reaches of the river.

The boatman told me that there was a verdant hill especially known for its tea, named Junshan or Dongting in the lake. Lake Dongting was named after this hill.

Summer is slack for fishing, because the lake is in spate. Fishermen would be busy repairing their boats preparing for the fishing season during autumn and winter.

The Case of the Shrinking Lake

As we sidled along the right side of the lake, I noticed that the water was muddy. Occasionally, we saw boats sailing in the direction of Yuanjiang. Many small fishing boats were moored along the bank. Unlike other lakes, Dongting is in fact made up of a fork of rivers. So one can go anywhere from this lake. If one wanted to appreciate the vast expanse of water, the boatman said, it is best to go to the centre or the eastern part of the lake.

During the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) Dynasties, the lake was 400 kilometres wide. At that time, Dongting was the largest lake in China. Unfortunately, a large

◂ *Children of Lianhua'ao are delighted to see visitors. They ignore their teacher and prance out of the classroom to greet us.*

▾ *Many fishermen like to use cormorants to help them catch fish in shallow water.*

quantity of sand and mud brought down by the Yangtse River has been deposited here, hence the emergence of land reclaiming the lake. So the lake's size has been reduced. Today, its size decreases 64 square kilometres every year.

We covered 30 kilometres after only a few hours. Gradually, our boat entered a vast expanse of water in southern Dongting Lake, dotted with some islets inhabited by fishermen. This part, known as Wanzi Lake, was an important fishing ground.

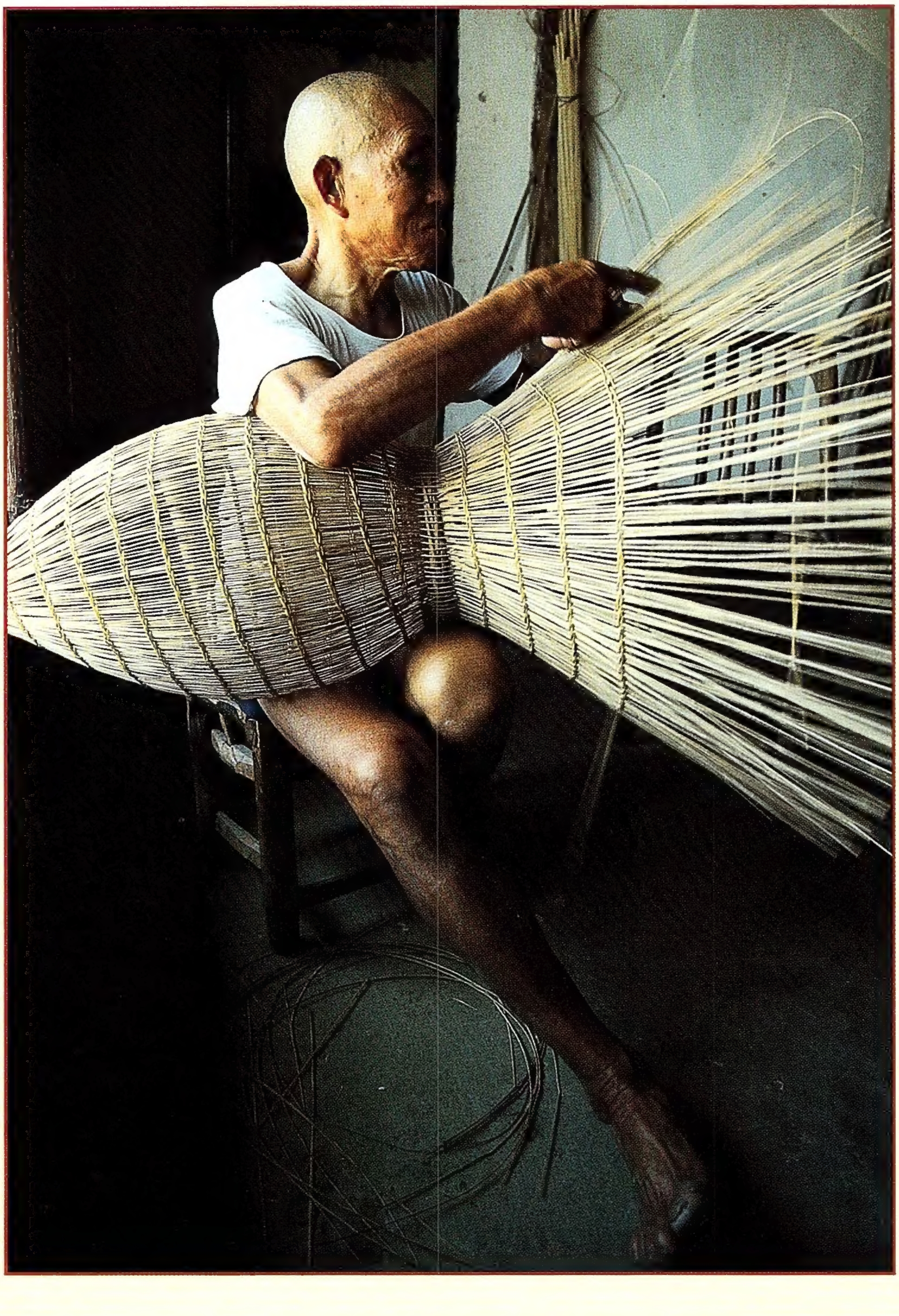
We headed for Liaotankou first, an islet with a perimeter of several hundred metres. On such a small islet, there were people living there too. Their connection with the outside

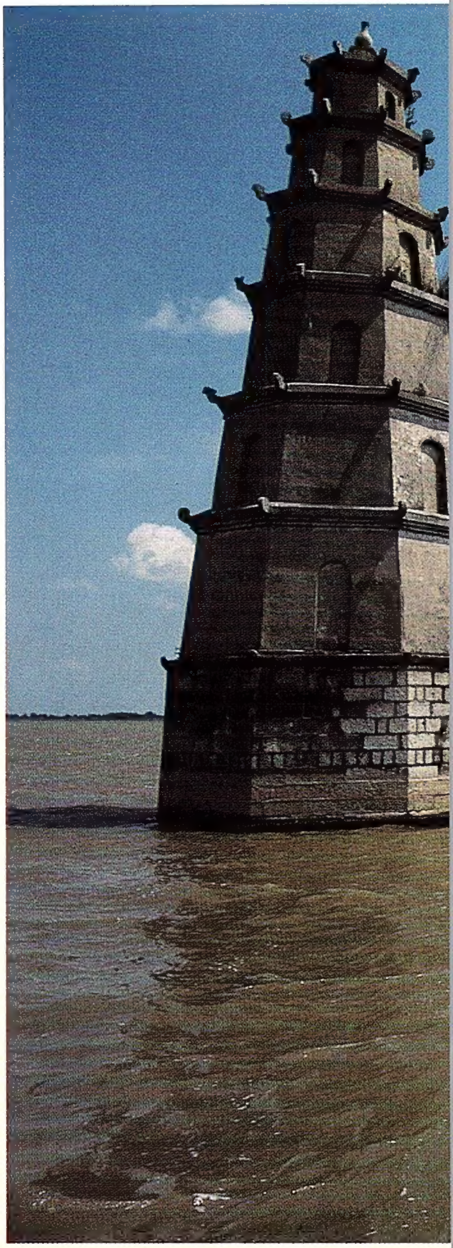
world was boats. Since many had gone to work elsewhere, the islet at this time seemed rather empty and quiet. Half an hour later, we sailed for another islet, Lianhua'ao, five kilometres away from Liaotankou.

Lianhua'ao, a Place of Jiangxi People

Lianhua'ao, actually a cluster of five nearby islets, had a population of a hundred people. Their forefathers had come to settle a hundred years before. Around those islets, many boats of various sizes were docked. It seemed full of life.

Life in these islets is simple and plain. Old folk kill time by weaving fish traps.





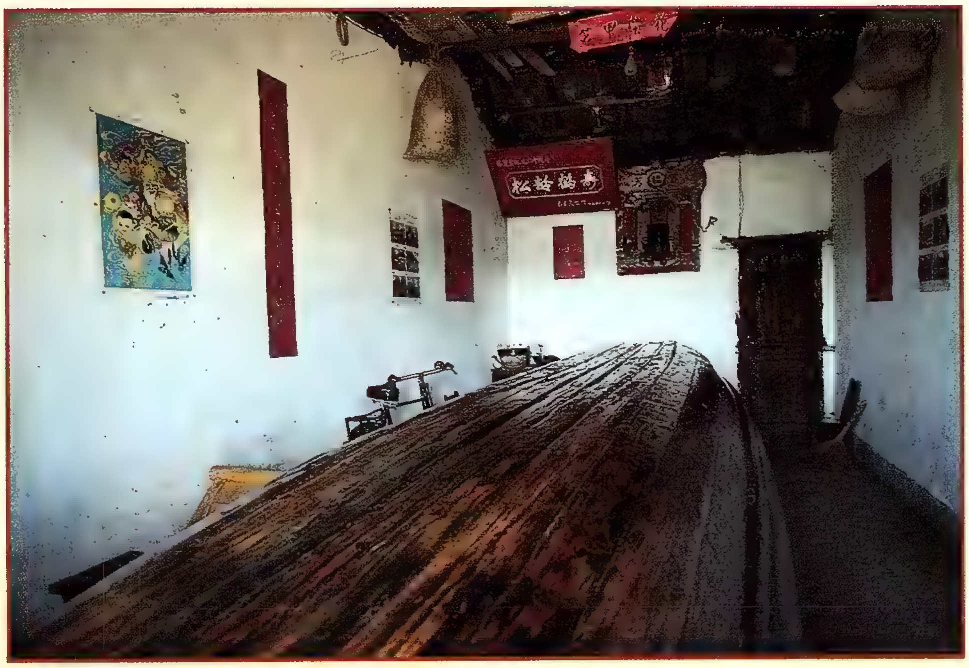
On a flat ground near one of the docks, there lay two boats upside down heavily painted with tung oil. Nearby there was a school. More than a dozen children aged from five to ten were having a class. When they realized there were visitors, they all came out and gathered around us. Some even invited us to go to their home. The serried houses were built near the edge of the islet so that each house faced the lake water. We did pay visits to some local families. In nearly every house, I saw a piece of red paper pasted on the wall of the main hall. On the paper were written the names of the family's ancestors and the location of the family's ancestral home. This was a commitment never to forget their origins. I noticed that the forefathers of most families were from

◀ *Despite the Zhenjiang Pagoda, which is supposed to invoke spirtual help to control the lake water, our motor vessel keeps bobbing up and down dangerously in the surging water.*

▼ *A boat is most important to fishermen. Naturally fishermen give great attention to boats. They dry their boats indoors to keep them out of the wind and rain after repainting them with tung oil.*

Jiangxi. The Jiangxi people, I learned, had come to settle down and lived by fishing as early as the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

What is worth mentioning was that in the hall of each household, there laid an upside-down wooden boat glossy with tung oil. I was told that June was a slack season for fishing. Boats, after six months' sailing, needed maintenance. One thing was to repaint the outside hull of the boat with tung oil, which made the boat waterproof. To protect boats from rain and wind, the oiled boats were kept indoors which would prolong their useful working life.



Kaihu Ceremony

When it turned cold, however, the scene was quite different. During late autumn in November, I revisited this place. Much of the lake water had already receded. In many places, it was only several metres deep. Fish such as grass carp and silver carp were all big and plump. It was the best season for fishing. Everywhere in the lake, there were boatmen spreading out their nets to catch fish.

In the area of Lake Dongting, there is a traditional fishing ceremony, which is locally known as *Kaihu* (First Catch of Fish in the Lake). It refers mainly to fishing done on a large scale in early winter. Late during the 11th lunar month and on through early in the 12th lunar month, boats from each fishing village gather in a designated place one early morning, and sail out to fish together. The time for *Kaihu* is not fixed. Usually it falls on one of the coldest winter days. That morning, after a sacrificial ceremony, thousands of boats, led by a large motor vessel, sail towards the centre of the lake, driving fish to the centre as well. Then the men spread their nets and get a good catch. That day alone, a fishing village can catch as much as 50 tons of fish. After *Kaihu,* the fishing season begins, continuing until early spring the next year. *Kaihu* has been commemorated for decades. It is also a good opportunity for fishermen to get together socially.

Above: ***Looking up at the towering fir trees in Nanda County's Luhu, one would find some strange patterns they make almost kaliedoscopic.***

Below: ***Lake Dongting is often shrouded in mist. Sometimes it looks like a mythical island floating in mid air.***

◂ *The lake area is full of tree farms. These felled trees are waiting to be transported to Yuanjiang.*

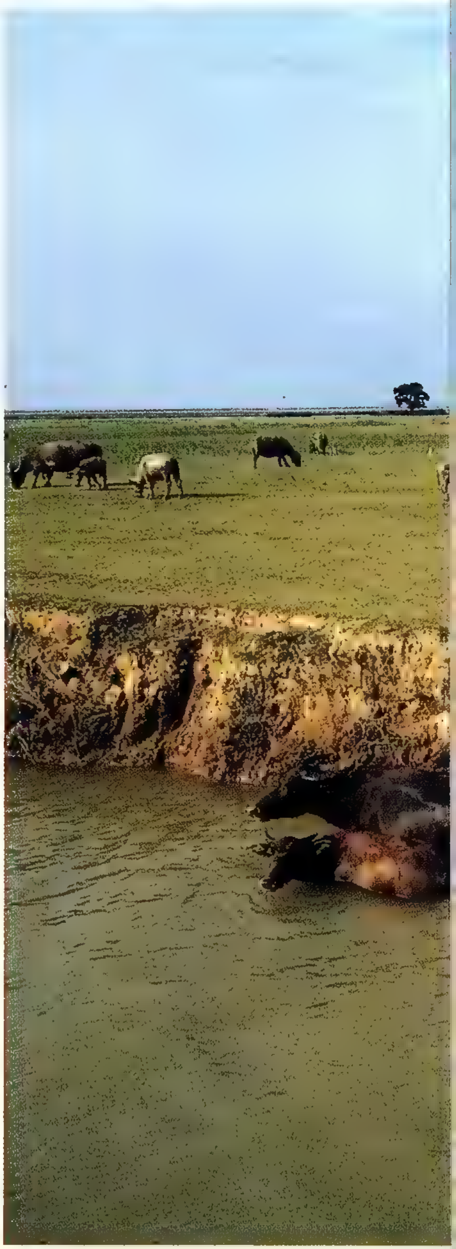
▾ *Fishing boats are returning home as the sun is setting.*

In the past few years, many fisheries have been set up in Lake Dongting; fishing methods have also been improving, however, the ceremony of *Kaihu* has been maintained, as the official start of the fishing season.

Zhenjiang Pagoda Subdues the Turbulant Water

Two and a half kilometres away from Lianhua'ao, there stood a pagoda called Zhenjiang (literally translated as "subduing water"). Because of the strong wind and rolling waves, our boat was unable to approach the solitary pagoda in the centre of the lake. We had to get on a raft to row over to read the inscription about how the pagoda had been built on a stone tablet. This pagoda

was built in 1782 during Emperor Qianlong's reign. So it had a history of 210 years. Octagonally shaped, it was 23.95 metres high with seven storeys. Inside there was a staircase linking each floor. Its windows faced the four directions of the compass. According to legend, the lake water in this part of the lake had been more turbulent in ancient days. Fishing boats had often capsized when passing through here. So people built a pagoda here believing it would control water and help people keep out of trouble. Whenever boatmen passed it, they would burn some joss-sticks to seek blessings.



Above: ***November is the orange and tangerine picking season in the Yuanjiang area.***

Below: ***Chillies are much appreciated by Hunan people. A boatload of them transported to the Yuanjiang wharf can be all snapped up by buyers before noon.***

◀ *In early summer before the high water level season, the lake's shores are a carpet of green — a natural pastureland for grazing cattle.*

▼ *Chishan Island on Lake Dongting is the region's lotus-growing centre. In summertime, farmers can be seen picking lotus flowers and their seeds on the lake.*

About four o'clock one afternoon, the motor vessel weighted anchor and headed upstream towards Yuanjiang. The wind was getting stronger and water began to surge like sea waves. It did seem quite dangerous.

Serving as a reservoir for the Yangtse River, Lake Dongting has annually accumulated 100 million cubic metres of sand and silt washed down by the river. Naturally the bed of the lake keeps rising. During the rainy season, the land around the lake shore is greatly threatened by floods. One reason for the catastrophic Yangtse River floods of 1991 was the result of the sand and silt deposits brought down by water from upper and middle reaches of the river and the resulting

◀ ***Tangerines preserved in sugar syrup***

decreasing capacity for storage of excess riverflow. Because of Dongting's relative shallow depth, the land around the lake shore was soon submerged when flood came.

According to archives, from 618 to recent years, there have been 326 floods recorded averageing one every four years. Of those floods, 91 had taken place within 100 years.

Roads, Fields, Ditches and Trees

During the Song and Yuan Dynasties, to build a raised embankment along the lake shore was one of the early measures employed to control floods. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, people began to convert the lake shore into fields. During the past 30 years, this area has been afforested so as to reduce soil erosion. Today, the land rimming the lake area, including Nanxian, Yuanjiang and Xiangyin have been turned into large fir tree farms.

On the third day of my stay in Yuanjiang, I went to Nanda, east of Yuanjiang. Our car raced along a straight narrow road which ran parallel to a stream. The road was flanked with neat fir trees as tall as 100 feet. Further out were fields, then again stretches of fir trees. If one could fly over this area, one would see the network of ditches, neatly arranged fields and rows upon rows of trees.

Of the three famous towers located south of the Yangtse River, Yueyang Tower is the oldest and was built exclusively according to ancient architectural dimensions.

Lake Dongting was not only rich with fish, but also with lotus, tangerines and other fruit.

Yueyang — An Ancient Lakeside Town

Having left Yuanjiang, I returned to Changsha and then got on a train going to Yueyang, hoping to have some new experiences in an ancient lakeside town.

Yueyang, lying on the east bank of the lake, was a town in the shape of a rectangle. Today, no tourist who came to Yueyang would miss the opportunity of visiting Yueyang Tower. One of the three largest traditional tower structures south of the Yangtse, it was constructed near the west city gate

◀ ***Yuanjiang is the biggest city on the shores of Lake Dongting. The Dragon Boat Races held here are grand in scale.***

▼ ***On Junshan Island opposite Yuanjiang, the Memorial Temple of the Imperial Concubines Xiao and Xiang has a roof ridge decorated with a flying dragon.***

overlooking Lake Dongting.

Built entirely of wood, the tower has three storeys and is 19.7 metres tall. Many famous poets have praised the tower in the past, including Du Fu, Li Bai and Han Yu. The most amous lines were written by Fan Zhongyan 989-1052) in his *Notes on the Yueyang Tower,* after the tower was rebuilt in 1045: "From the dawn's first glimmer to the glow of dusk, the tower is blessed with a thousand changing faces." It is truly fitting that this splendid structure stands on the shores of the magnificent Dongting Lake. The tower was once again reconstructed in 1867 during the Qing Dynasty and refurbished in 1984.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

A Visit to Shaoshan

ARTICLE BY TAI CHI YIN

Visitors have photos taken in front of Mao Zedong's old residence (by Lam Kin Fai)

▲ *Shaoshan, surrounded by mountains, forests and fields, is bucolic (by Tai Chi Yin).*

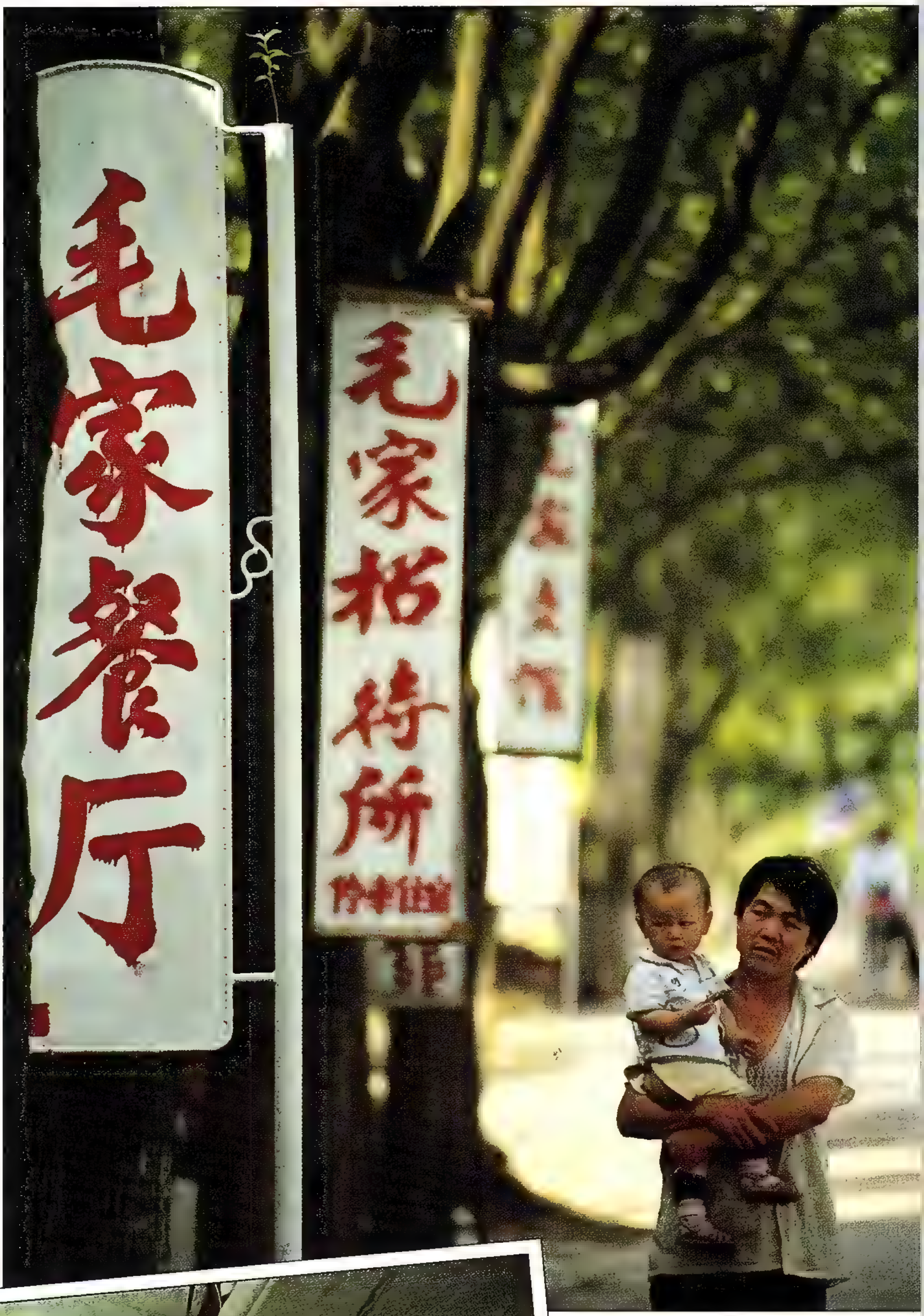
▶ *Mao Zedong's huge portrait is still hanging high in Shaoshan Railway Station (by Lam Kin Fai).*

As one might expect in an important agricultural area, especially during the growing season, Hunan is a world of emerald green in early July. I started out from the provincial capital Changsha and went southward towards Shaoshan. On the way I passed endless fecund fields flashing past outside the window of our car.

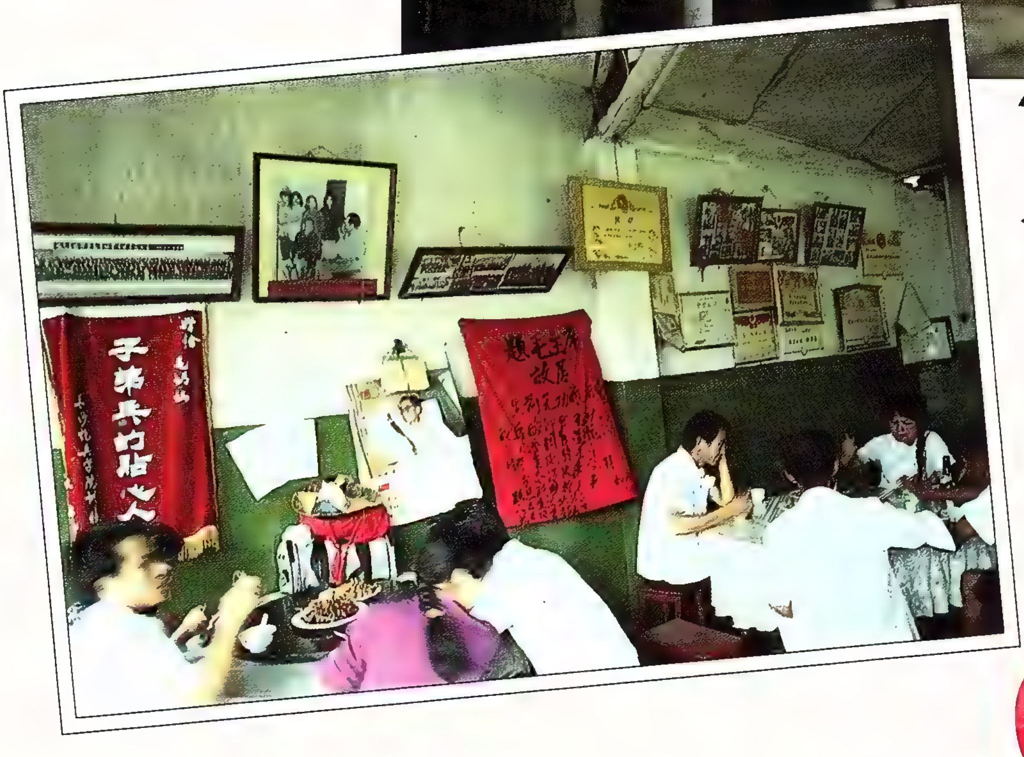
Shaoshan — A Hot Tourist Attraction

After we passed Xiangtan, our car turned towards the mountains. There was no highway leading to Shaoshan in the past, but today there is not only a highway of top quality, but also a railway which was constructed in the late '60s, running from Changsha to Shaoshan. The trains run from both termini once a day. Most of the train passengers are people who come especially to visit Shaoshan.

Located 45 kilometres to the northwest of Xiangtan, Shaoshan is the birthplace of Mao Zedong. Preserved there are Mao Zedong's old residence, the place where he studied when he was young, the Mao Zedong Memorial Museum, and the Ancestral Temple of the Mao Family. These buildings with local style are scattered in the valleys between mountains. Today, Shaoshan has become a major tourist attraction, drawing about six hundred thousand visitors every year.



▲ ***All shops in Shaoshan use the Mao Family signboards to attract customers (by Lam Kin Fai).***



◀ ***Inside the Mao Family Restaurant there are many certificates of merit, silk banners, Mao Zedong's photos and other mementos (by Tai Chi Yin).***

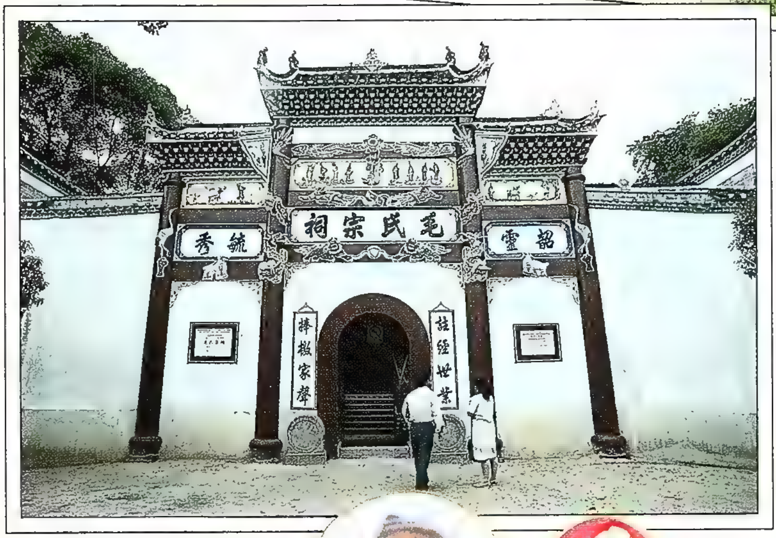
The Mao Family Restaurant — A Must for Visitors

It was lunch time when we arrived in Shaoshan. To pay my respects and nourish myself, I went to the Mao Family Restaurant. It stands on the bank of a lotus pond, facing Mao Zedong's old residence. Though it is small and looks ordinary, on its inside walls are hung certificates of merit, red silk banners and Mao Zedong's photos and posters. Among the photos, the most interesting one is the picture taken in 1959 when Mao Zedong chatted with Miss Tang Ruiren, the owner of the restaurant. Now, there are many so-called "Mao Family Restaurants" everywhere in Shaoshan, but the one we went to is the original one. We ordered a few Hunan dishes. Unfortunately, they were all so spicy that none of us could stand them.

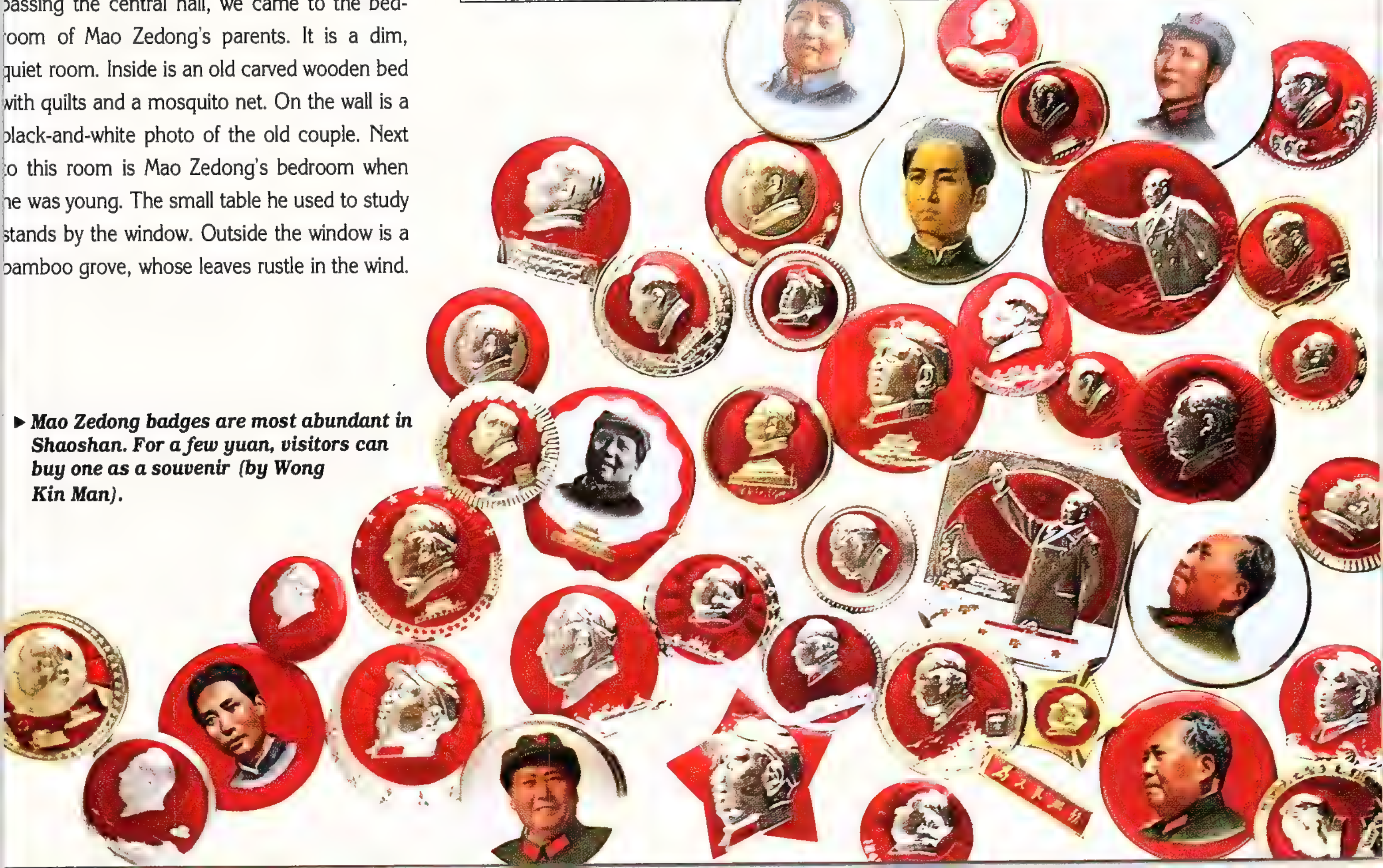
Mao Zedong's Old Residence

Mao Zedong's old residence is an ordinary house with yellowish adobe walls and tiled roofs built in typical Hunan style at the foot of a small hill about half a kilometre away from the Yinfeng Mountain. The house faces north, and it is cool inside during the hot summer. After passing the central hall, we came to the bedroom of Mao Zedong's parents. It is a dim, quiet room. Inside is an old carved wooden bed with quilts and a mosquito net. On the wall is a black-and-white photo of the old couple. Next to this room is Mao Zedong's bedroom when he was young. The small table he used to study stands by the window. Outside the window is a bamboo grove, whose leaves rustle in the wind.

▸ ***Two young sisters in Shaoshan return home along the pathway in the fields after school (by Tai Chi Yin).***



◂ ***The Ancestral Temple of the Mao Family has been renovated recently. The small desk Mao Zedong used to study during his childhood is still kept inside the temple (by Tai Chi Yin).***



▸ ***Mao Zedong badges are most abundant in Shaoshan. For a few yuan, visitors can buy one as a souvenir (by Wong Kin Man).***

In addition to these rooms, there are a kitchen, a henhouse, a pigsty, a farm implements room, a stone mortar, cooking utensils and farm tools.

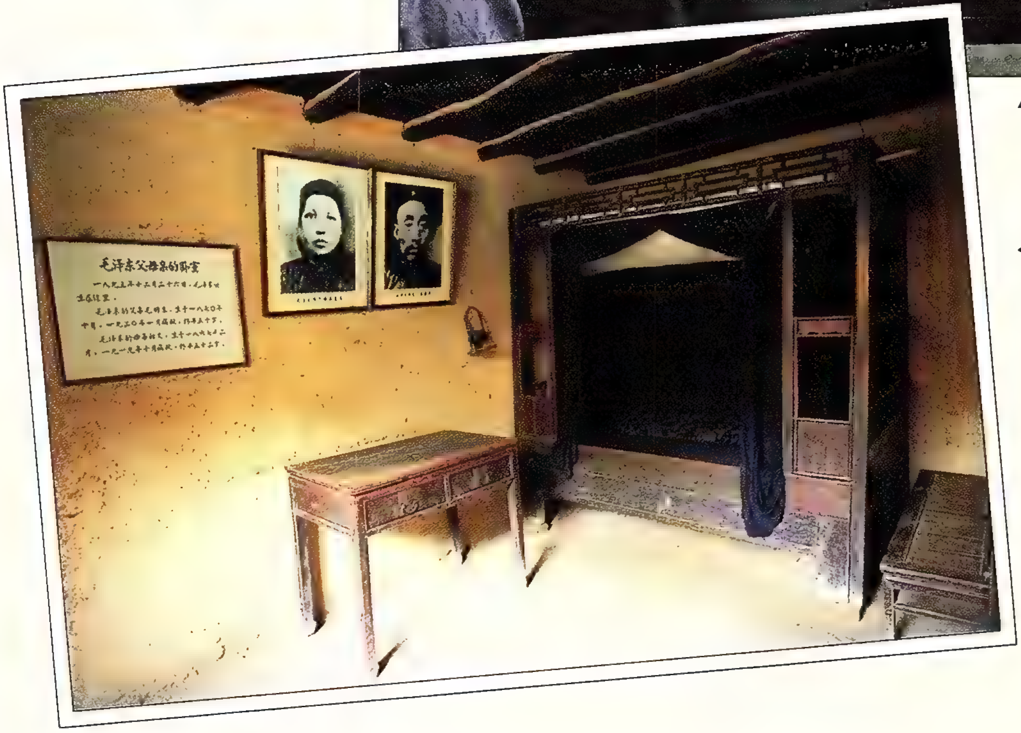
Three hundred metres away from Mao Zedong's old residence there were several other households, I happened to meet a lady known as Sister Mao there. Her husband's family have lived in the Shaoshan Village for generations. By tilling the few paddy fields handed down by their ancestors, they have led a peaceful, pastoral existence. "Most of the villagers in Shaoshan are surnamed Mao," Sister Mao informed me.

I followed Sister Mao to her home. Her house is simply furnished, but tidy and clean. In the central hall was a portrait of Mao Zedong when he was middle-aged. There was also a half-length photo of the young Mao Zedong.

The Drip Drop Cave Villa

After we bid goodbye to Sister Mao, we went to visit the Drip Drop Cave Villa several kilometres away from Mao Zedong's old family residence. This is a place where Mao Zedong once lived. In fact it is not a cave at all, but a canyon surrounded by high mountains. The villa stands on the shore of the Shaoshan Reservoir. The place appears located so perilously that even sunlight can hardly penetrate. Our

▲ Sister Mao and her elder sister, holding the portrait of young Mao Zedong, are having a photo taken at home (by Tai Chi Yin).



◀ The bedroom of Mao Zedong's parents was as ordinary as any local farmers' (by Lam Kin Fai).

car ran along a winding road till we came to a one-storey grey building.

This villa was built at the end of 1962. After its completion, it had remained uninhabited until the middle of 1966 when Mao Zedong came to stay for twelve days. This was the only time he ever came to stay here. In 1987 the villa was turned into a hotel and opened to the public. Since then it has become a tourist attraction, and the rooms of Building No. 1, where Mao Zedong stayed, have been open to visitors.

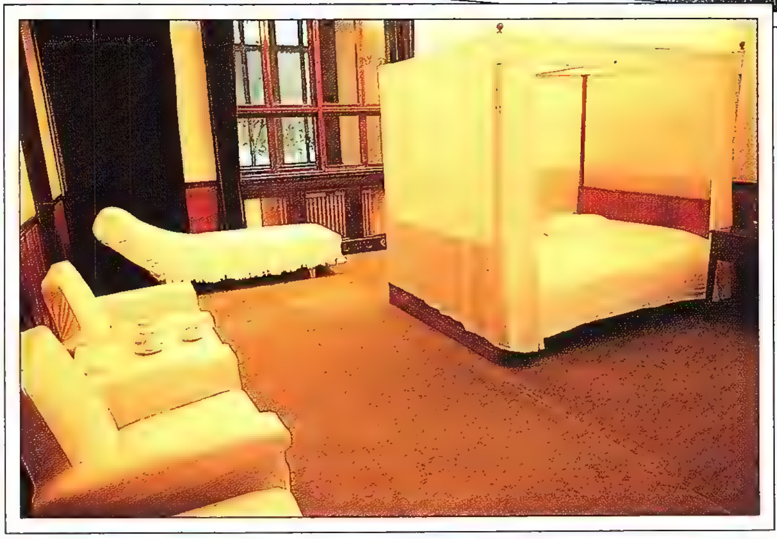
Building No. 1 facing east also looks towards the Mao clan's ancestral graveyard on the Dragon Head Mountain. It is very spacious inside, with a parlour, a meeting room, a study, a bedroom, a dining room and bathroom. But the entire building is simply furnished.

After visiting the villa, we went on a sightseeing tour around the nearby mountain area and the countryside. Everywhere we went, we saw a world of lush vegetation. The emerald mountains and lush paddy fields formed a huge green carpet spread over the vast expanse before us.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

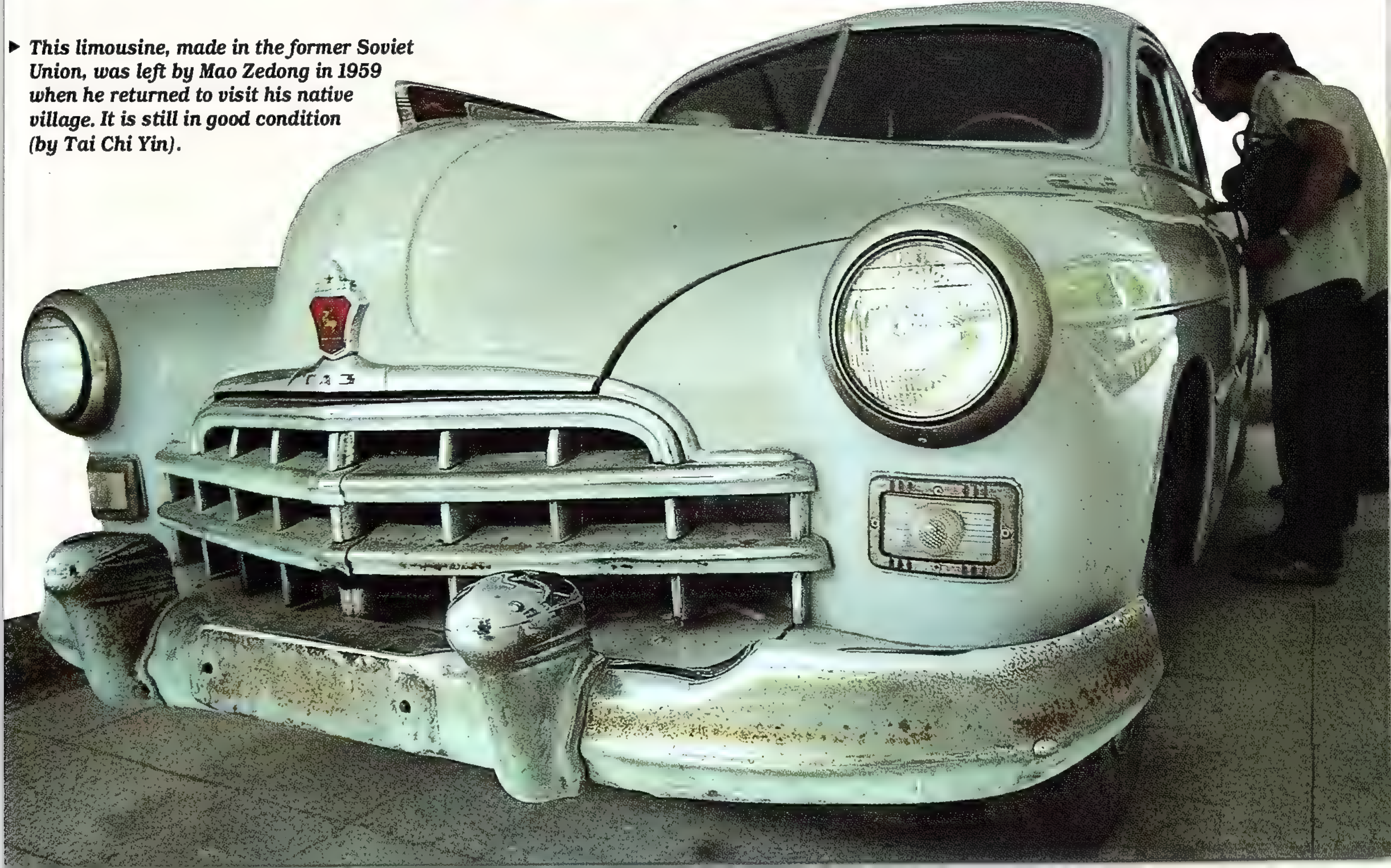
滴水洞天
G58-0600

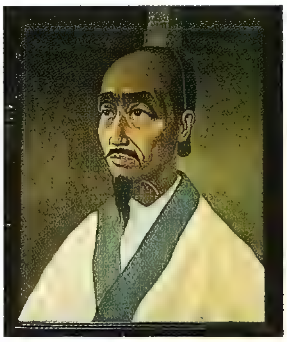
▸ ***The entrance to the Drip Drop Cave Villa is still guarded by policemen today (by Lam Kin Fai).***



◂ ***This is Mao Zedong's bedroom in the Drip Drop Cave Villa. It is said Mao Zedong loved reading at night. The bed was specially designed for him (by Lam Kin Fai).***

▸ ***This limousine, made in the former Soviet Union, was left by Mao Zedong in 1959 when he returned to visit his native village. It is still in good condition (by Tai Chi Yin).***





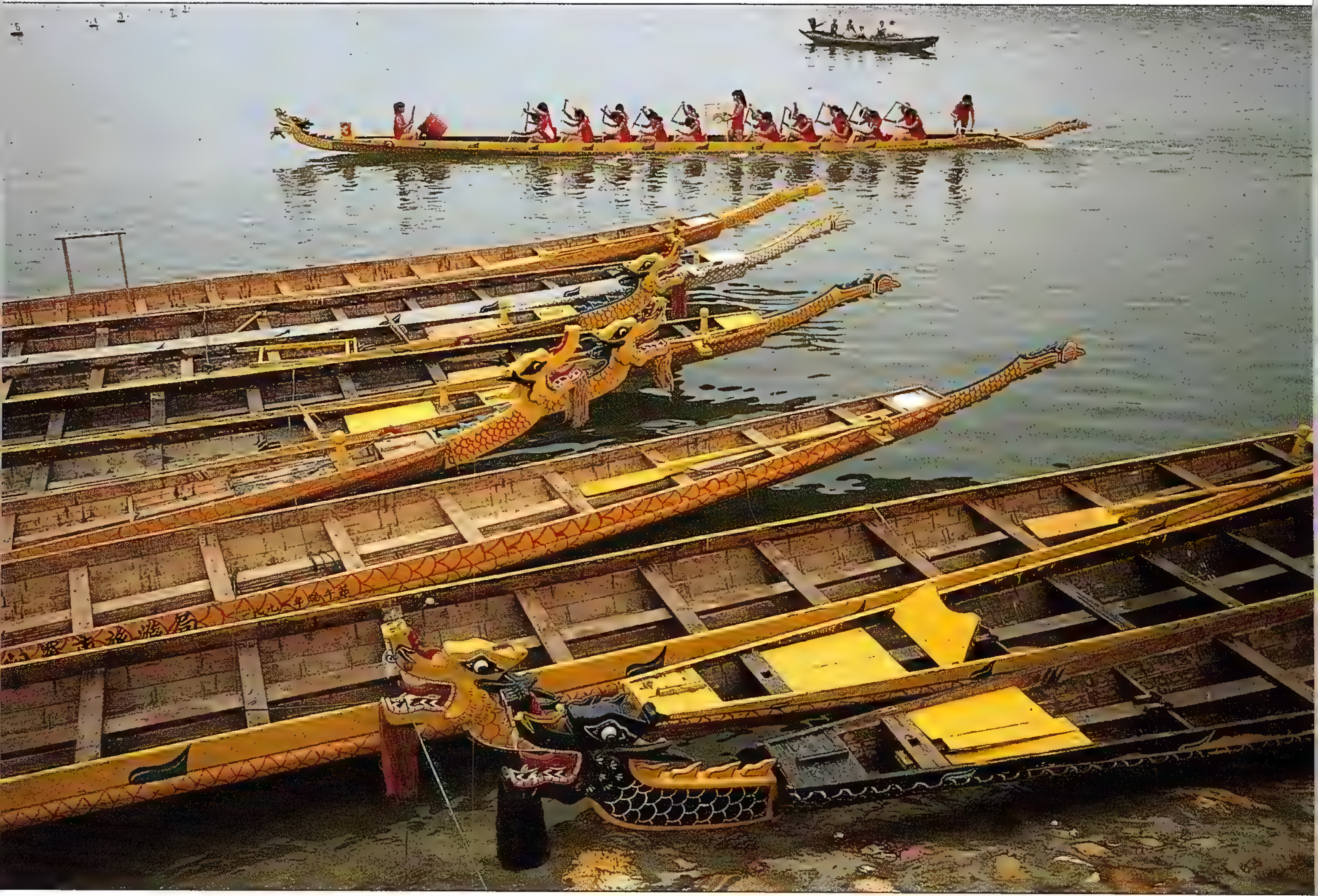
Where the Dragon Boat Festival Started

Dragon Boat Races in the Miluo River

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY LAM KIN FAI

Above: *An oil portrait of Qu Yuan hangs on the main entrance to the Qu Yuan Memorial Hall (by Tai Chi Yin).*

Below: *A womens' team is ready for the race.*



On the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, Chinese people celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival. On that day, people entertain themselves by either taking part, or, more often, watching dragon boat races. The food characteristic of the holiday is *zongzi,* a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves. On the festival last year, I paid a visit to Miluo in Hunan, where the festival was said to have originated.

Miluo is a small town located in northeastern Hunan. The Miluo River skirts the town on the north emptying into Lake Dongting.

In Commemoration of the Great Poet Qu Yuan

Qu Yuan was born into a noble family in the State of Chu late during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). He was a man who advocated justice and was straightforward with his criticisms of administration. He was destined inevitably to fall out of favour with King Huaiwang and was also slandered bitterly by his fellow officials. So he left the court and lived in the area near the present-day Xiangjiang River. Later, King Huaiwang, bullied and pressed by the State of Qin, died in the Qin area. Totally disappointed, Qu Yuan threw himself into the Miluo River. Once this news spread, people cast *zongzi* into the river, believing that fish would not eat his body, preferring *zongzi.* Later on they gradually fell into a custom of holding Dragon Boat Races to commemorate the poet.

On the third day of the fifth lunar month, I boarded a train with a local friend to go to Miluo to watch the Dragon Boat Races. In the past, the festival started on the first day of the month. Now, to save time for tourists, the festival lasted only two days.

The Qu Yuan Memorial Hall

The following morning, we drove to the Miluo River. The river, famous now because of Qu Yuan, was 100 metres wide. It was shallow and the water flowed slowly, excellent conditions for boat-racing. On one of the river banks, some people were busy erecting a bamboo hut, which would serve as the headquarters of the next day's boat races.

We then went to the Qu Yuan Memorial Hall standing on a small hillock by the river. It was built near the ruins of Qu Yuan's residence. The hall had three courtyards and three main halls. In the central hall, there stood the memorial tablet of Qu Yuan. On the whole, the structures were by no means magnificent, however, they seemed dignified in their own way, and it was no wonder visitors all looked so solemn. Their demeanour was also probably due to people's deep reverence for the poet's protest. Qu's poetry in fact gave prominence to a new kind of poetry originating in Chu and rich in regional characteristics with a unique style.

Paying homage to Qu Yuan before his memorial tablet

Splendidly uniformed children greet guests in the streets (by Tai Chi Yin).

Ancient Dragon Boat Head

The chamber at the back had been converted into the Dragon Boat Museum. A replica of a Ming Dynasty dragon boat was exhibited in the hall. The dragon boat had been first invented by the natives of Miluo. The local people still pay careful attention to the woodwork and elaborate carvings of the wooden dragon's head placed on the boat's bow. Some ancient wooden dragon heads were yet kept here today. They looked vivid and awe-inspiring. The oldest ones had been made four to five hundred years before. Because of Miluo's seminal role in this tradition, today people were still very meticulous in crafting dragon heads. Such a dragon head would be produced several months before the festival. The wood must be of good quality, and the carver would pick an auspicious day to start the work. The craft was usually handed down from father to son. Outsiders would never be able to learn the skill. In the whole town, there were only a few such master craftsmen.

When we returned to the riverside, we saw some people practicing rowing in the river. But strangely their boats had no dragon heads. I was told that the dragon heads would be put on the bows only when they were dedicated at the festival's sacrificial ritual. Before the race, in fact, there were several ceremonies.

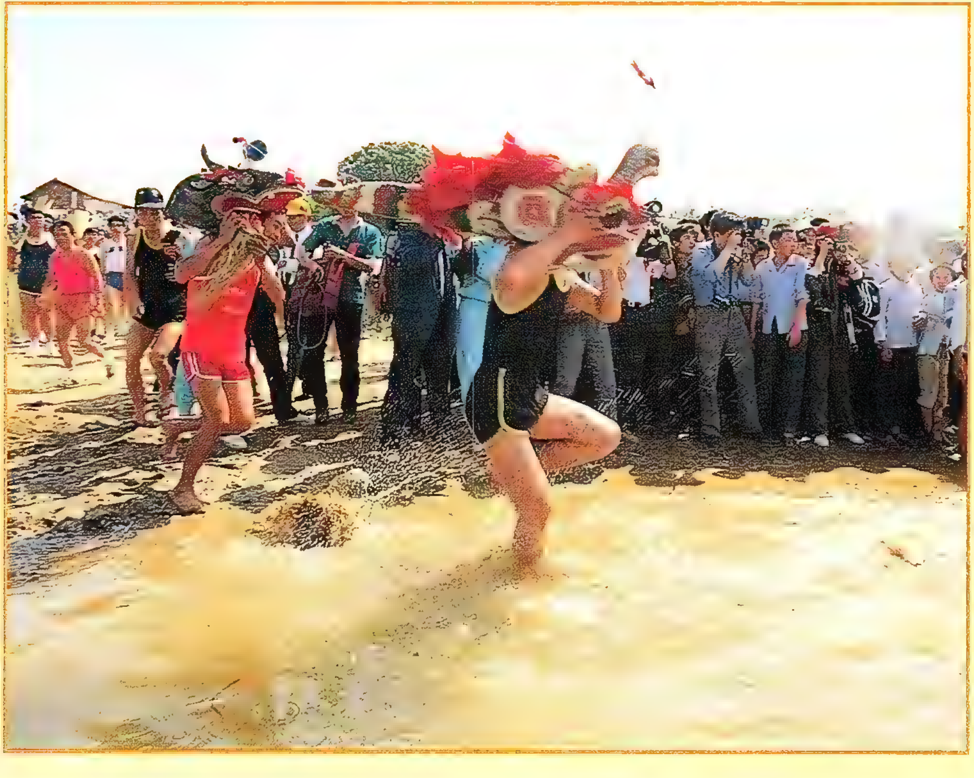
Bite-Sized *Zongzi*

Our driver led me to see one of his friends. The host first entertained me with a cup of Salty Ginger Tea. It was made of minced ginger, salt, green tea plus some bean and sesame. I had three cups consciously following local custom. It tasted rather strange, however, it was now the festival's special treatment, which was said to promote the secretion of saliva and cool the body. After the tea, the host brought us some *zongzi*. Those *zongzi* were so small that one could eat a whole one in one mouthful. They were with sugar and tasted good.

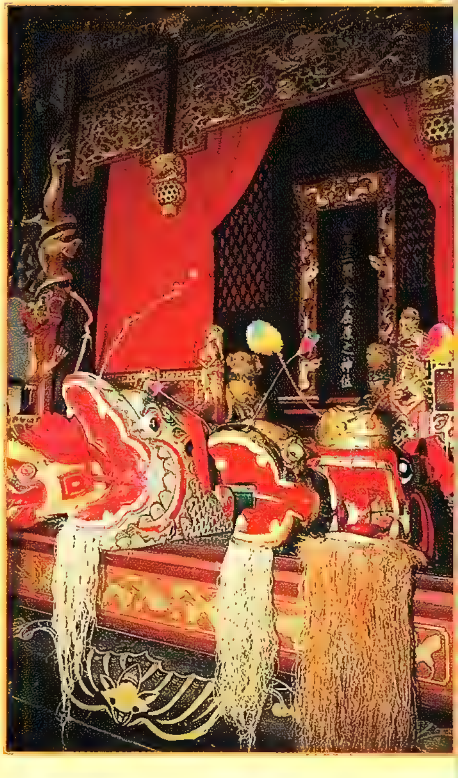
Weather was fine but the heat stifling on the first day of the festival. When we got to the Qu Yuan Memorial Hall, teams of boatmen in red, blue and black sports gear gathered at the riverside and prepared for the ceremony of paying homage to the dragon heads. Each participating team came up the hillock and entered the memorial hall. A row of wooden dragon heads carved from camphor wood were laid before the memorial tablet of Qu Yuan. Each team offered some joss-sticks and took one dragon head away. Then they put a red ribbon around it and paraded around the memorial hall amidst the frenetic sound of firecrackers, drums and gongs and returned to the riverside.

Crowds of spectators were waiting by the river. As is the local custom, some people tied a few pieces of dragon beard around their children's wrists, believing that the dragon would protect them and ensure a peaceful year.

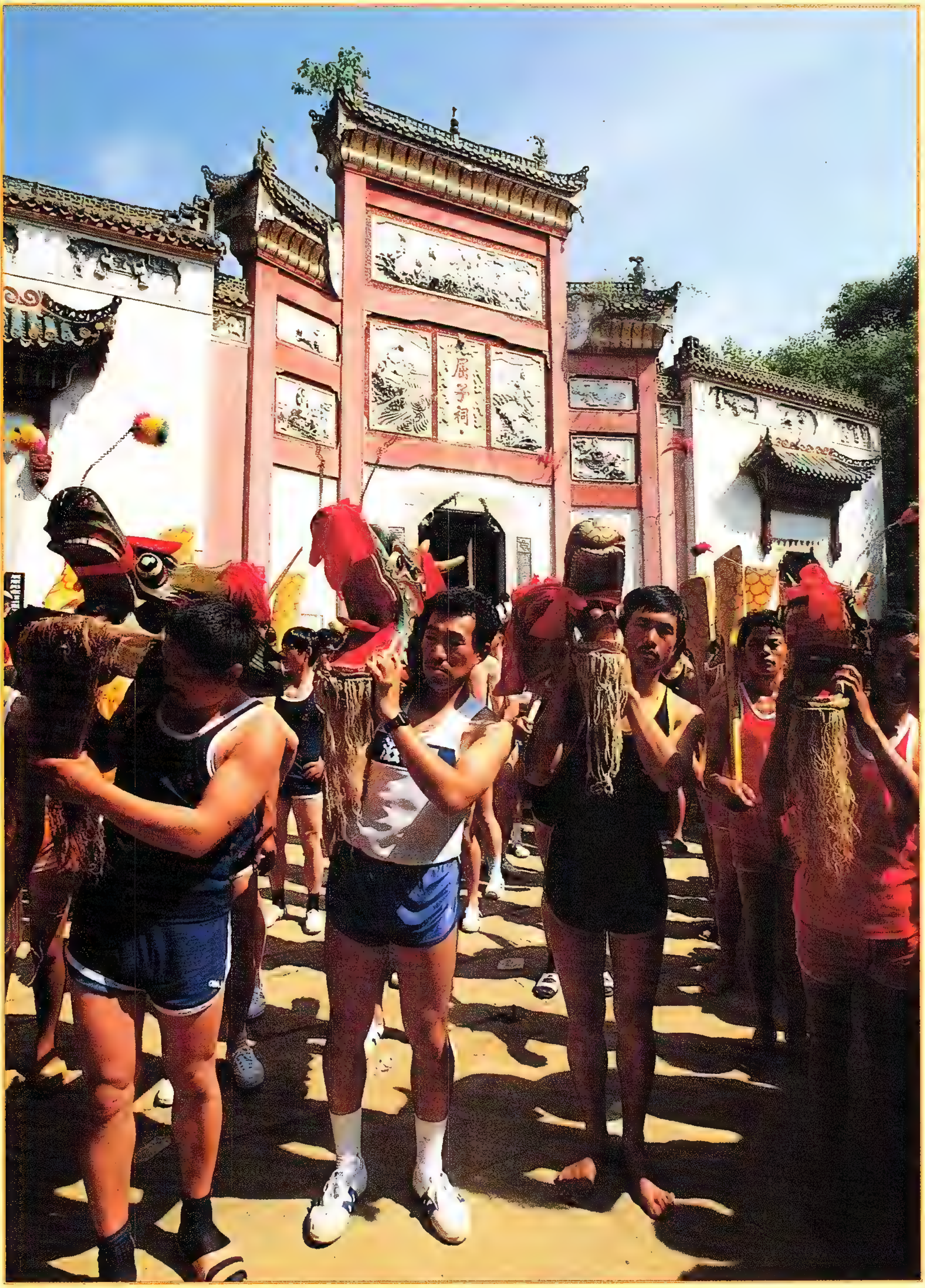
Once the order is given by the Master of Ceremonies, representatives from each team lift the dragon heads and rush to the river; thus beginning the Washing the Dragon Head Ceremony.



Dragon heads laid on the sacrificial altar of Qu Yuan are waiting to be dedicated a the sacrificial ceremony.



To the Miluo people, boat-racing was not only for fun but also expressing their reverence towards their ancestors as well as Qu Yuan.



Zongzi **is a must for people in Miluo on the Dragon Boat Festival.**

The next ceremonial program was to wash the dragon heads. Each team sent a representative to take the team's dragon head. Once the order was given by the Master of Ceremonies, these representatives rushed towards the river bringing their dragon heads with them and then swam to mid-stream. The local people believed that the Miluo River water was able to protect people from evil spirits on that day. To wash dirt off the dragon heads also symbolized the elimination of bad luck; thus, the boat would be in shipshape condition for the competition. Rushing towards the river while holding a dragon head also underscored the dauntless spirit of the competitors to intrepidly charge full speed ahead.

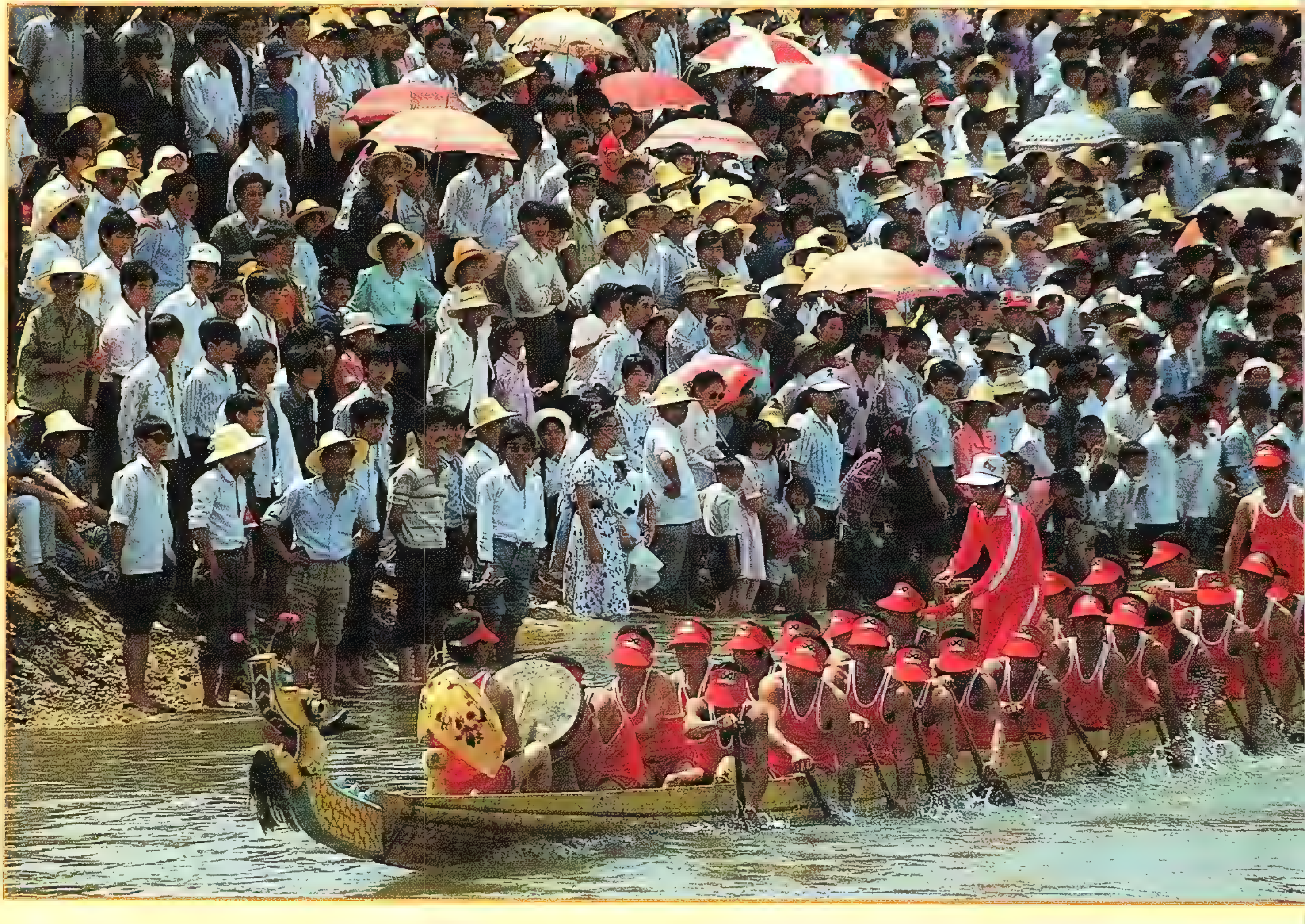
Watching the Boat Races

Once all the preliminary ceremonies were completed, the dragon boat races commenced. Though there was quite a number of boatmen, most participated just for fun or to gain blessings. So they were not so keen to win. By now, the river banks were crowded with people in high spirits. Some even stood in water with their bikes. This helped them to keep cool and also brought luck to them because they were actually in the sacred water which was the very source of the festival's origin.

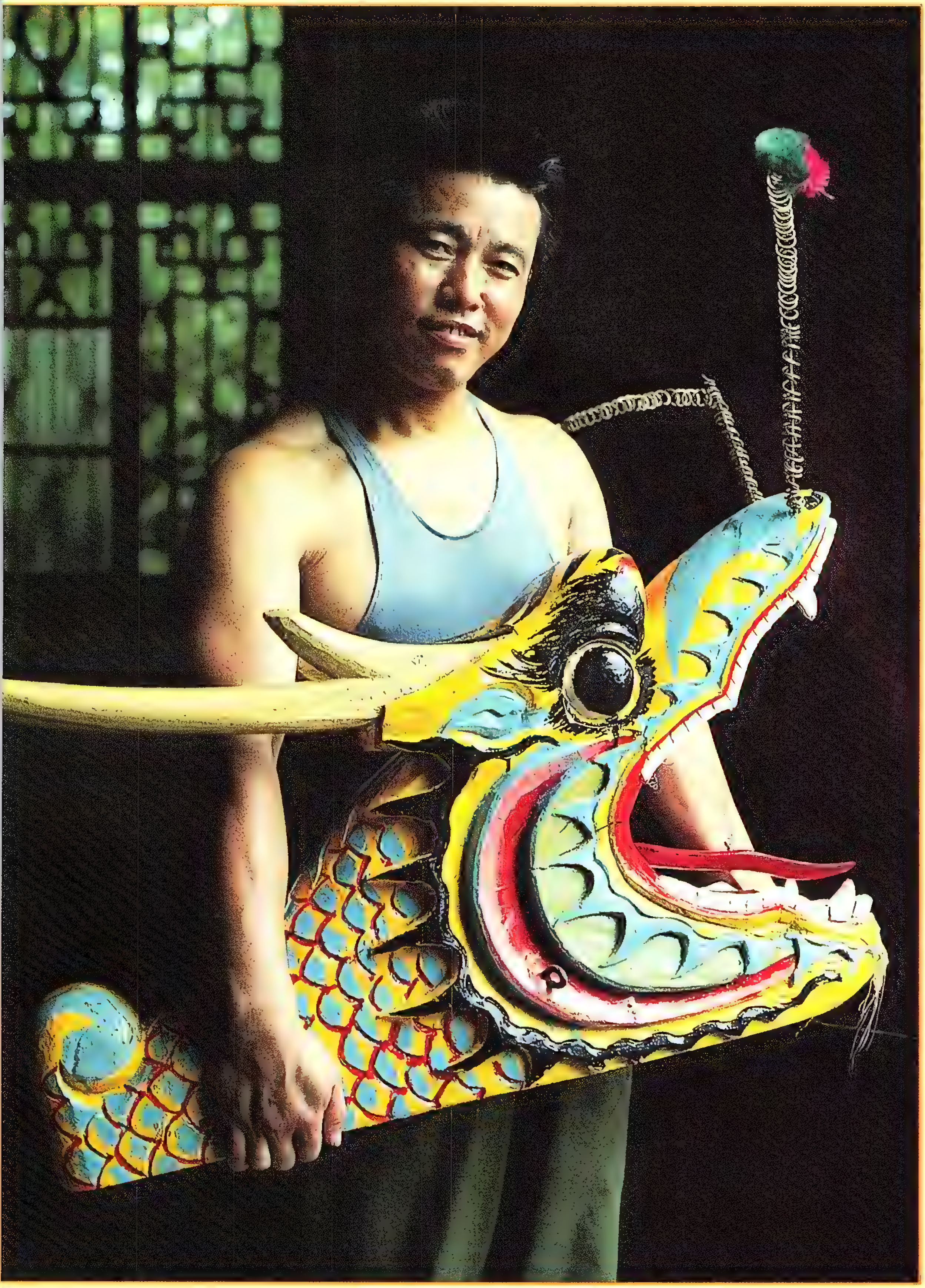
Translated by Wang Mingjie

All that are left from Qu Yuan's residence are but two commemorative stone tablets by the Miluo River (by Tai Chi Yin).

The great commotion on both banks of the Miluo River for the Dragon Boat Festival



According to a curator of the museum, this Ming Dynasty dragon head is 400 years old (by Tai Chi Yin).

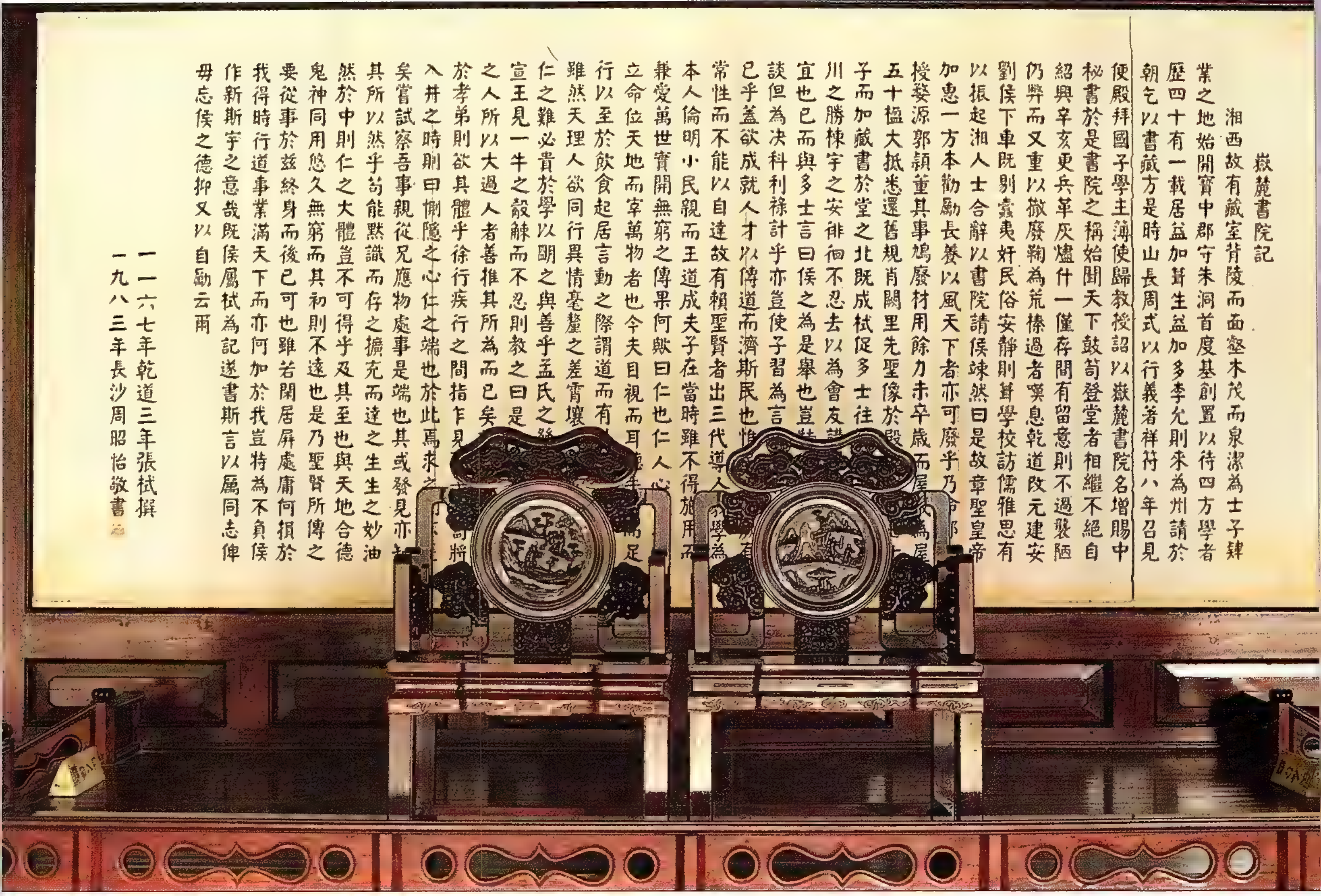


Yuelu Academy

One of China's Four Great Learning Institutions

PHOTOS BY TAI CHI YIN ARTICLE BY YUAN JIE

It is said that many great Confucian scholars began their career here.



嶽麓書院記

湘西故有藏室背陵而面壑木茂而泉潔為士子肄
業之地始開寶中郡守朱洞首度基創置以待四方學者
歷四十有一載居益加葺生益加多李允則來為州請於
朝乞以書藏方是時山長周式以行義著祥符八年召見
便殿拜國子學主簿使歸教授詔以嶽麓書院名增賜中
秘書於是書院之稱始聞天下鼓笥登堂者相繼不絕自
紹興辛亥更兵革灰燼什一僅存間有留意則不過葺陋
仍弊而又重以撤廢鞠為荒榛過者嘆息乾道改元建安
劉侯下車既剔蠹夷奸民俗安靜則葺學校訪儒雅思有
以振起湘人士合辭以書院請侯竦然曰是故章聖皇帝
加惠一方本勸勵長養以風天下者亦可廢乎乃命郡[illegible]
授婺源郭頴董其事鳩廢材用餘力未卒歲而屋[illegible]為屋
五十楹大抵悉還舊規肖闕里先聖像於殿[illegible]
子而加藏書於堂之北既成栻促多士往[illegible]
川之勝棟宇之安徘徊不忍去以為會友講[illegible]
宜也已而與多士言曰侯之為是舉也豈特[illegible]
談但為決科利祿計乎亦豈使子習為言[illegible]
已乎蓋欲成就人才以傳道而濟斯民也惟[illegible]有
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立命位天地而宰萬物者也今夫目視而耳聽[illegible]而足
行以至於飲食起居言動之際謂道而有[illegible]
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宣王見一牛之觳觫而不忍則教之曰是[illegible]
之人所以大過人者善推其所為而已矣[illegible]
於孝弟則欲其體乎徐行疾行之間指乍見[illegible]將
入井之時則曰惻隱之心仁之端也於此焉求之[illegible]
矣嘗試察吾事親從兄應物處事是端也其或發見亦[illegible]
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然於中則仁之大體豈不可得乎及其至也與天地合德
鬼神同用悠久無窮而其初則不遠也是乃聖賢所傳之
要從事於茲終身而後已可也雖若閑居屏處庸何損於
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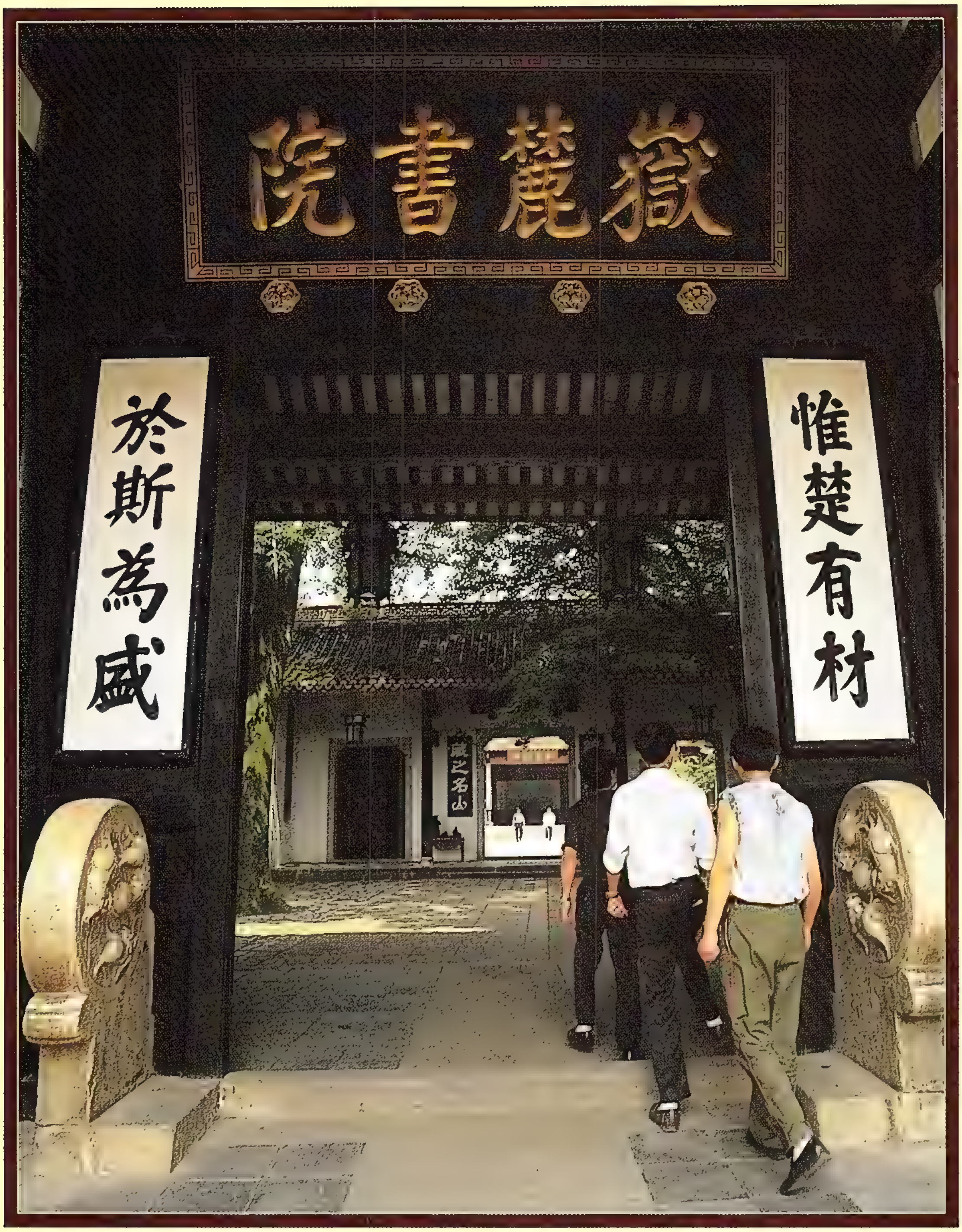
作新斯宇之意哉既侯屬栻為記遂書斯言以厲同志俾
毋忘侯之德抑又以自勵云爾

一一六七年乾道三年張栻撰
一九八三年長沙周昭怡敬書



The entrance of Yuelu Academy preserves its ancient style.

The Yuelu Academy was one of the four largest academies in China during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the other three being Bailudong, Shigu and Yingtianfu. Now the site of Hunan University, it is located at the mouth of the Qingfeng Valley at the eastern foot of Yuelu Mountain to the west of Changsha in Hunan Province. Backed by Hexi Peak, it faces the Xiangjiang River, an ideal place for quiet contemplation in a school or a sanatorium.

As soon as we entered the premises, we were impressed by a great number of horizontally inscribed boards. Some of these inscriptions were written and donated to this school by Emperor Kangxi and Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Though its structures were mostly built during the Qing Dynasty, the composition of the campus followed the Song Dynasty architectural style. The school was made of three basic structure groups: classrooms, library and memorial hall. It is the best preserved ancient school extant in China today.

The campus was full of tall ancient trees, which provided good shade. Images of unicorns were carved on the eaves, symbolizing that the students of this school would be turned into great men one day. Beside the memorial hall lay a pond. Walking past, one could hear the gurgling water. To train students how to concentrate on learning in spite of outside interference, the pond had specially been built to make noise so as to develop their ability to focus on their studies.

Song Emperor's Inscription

The name of Yuelu was first used in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), but it only referred to an imperial library where books were kept or compiled. It was not until the year 940 in the Five Dynasty Period (907-920) that there appeared Bailudong, the first school. By the time of the early Northern Song Dynasty, schools of this type run by great scholars,

The archway of the school is not only magnificent but also of classic elegance.

The rear courtyard of the school is beautiful and quiet. Buildings here are built in ancient architectural style.

separate from either official schools or private schools, developed rapidly. At that time, there were six very well-known schools including the Yuelu Academy.

In 976, Zhu Dong, the governor of Tanzhou, (an administrative unit covering twelve counties including Changsha) following the suggestion of the local gentry, founded the Yuelu Academy at Yuelu Mountain. In its early days, there were five classrooms and 52 dormitory rooms. After five or six years, it had several hundred teachers. Emperor Zhenzong wrote an inscription of four characters "Yue Lu Shu Yuan" (Yuelu Academy) for a horizontal board on the lintel of the entrance. Since then the school's reputation has grown rapidly.

The Yuelu Academy was once destroyed by war fire during the early Southern Song Dynasty. It was later rebuilt with funds donated by local people.

One reason for its great reputation was that many a great scholar had come here to give lectures. For instance, Zhu Xi, Southern Song's great scholar of Lixue, a Confucian school of idealist philosophy, which imparted

寺師範界
民国三十年立
嶽麓書院界

This is a land demarcation stone. The Yuelu Academy had its own fields. Teachers and students all would spend some time farming in its fields so that they would be fit and know something about agriculture.

Students from Hunan University often come here to read after school, perhaps imitating great Confucian scholars of the past.

to Confucianism a didactic character and was officially accorded orthodoxy in 1313, came twice to give lectures. The first time he came in 1167 and stayed for two months. His second visit took place in 1194. He bought the school 330 hectares of land and got the emperor to donate to the school the *Nine Classics*. Zhu promulgated, as it were, the "Regulations of Scholar Zhu's Academy" and put forward the theory of the "Order of Learning", that is, learning, asking, thinking, debating and acting. He stressed that the aim of teaching was "no more than making the audience see the reasons, cultivating himself and influencing others". He also said that the motivation for teaching was neither for fame nor gain. Those policies were widely adopted by other schools of the time, and were followed for many generations.

Great Men Studied Here

Though fully supported by local officials, Yuelu Academy, strictly speaking, was not an official school. It was run privately by great scholars, therefore, for a long time it had no unified syllabus. During Emperor Qianlong's reign in the Qing Dynasty, Yuelu Academy finally for the first time, decided to adopt as textbooks the *Six Classics,* and *Twenty-Four Histories,* as well as essays by the great Song and Ming scholars of Lixue such as Zhu Xi, Wang Yangming and Lu Xiangshan.

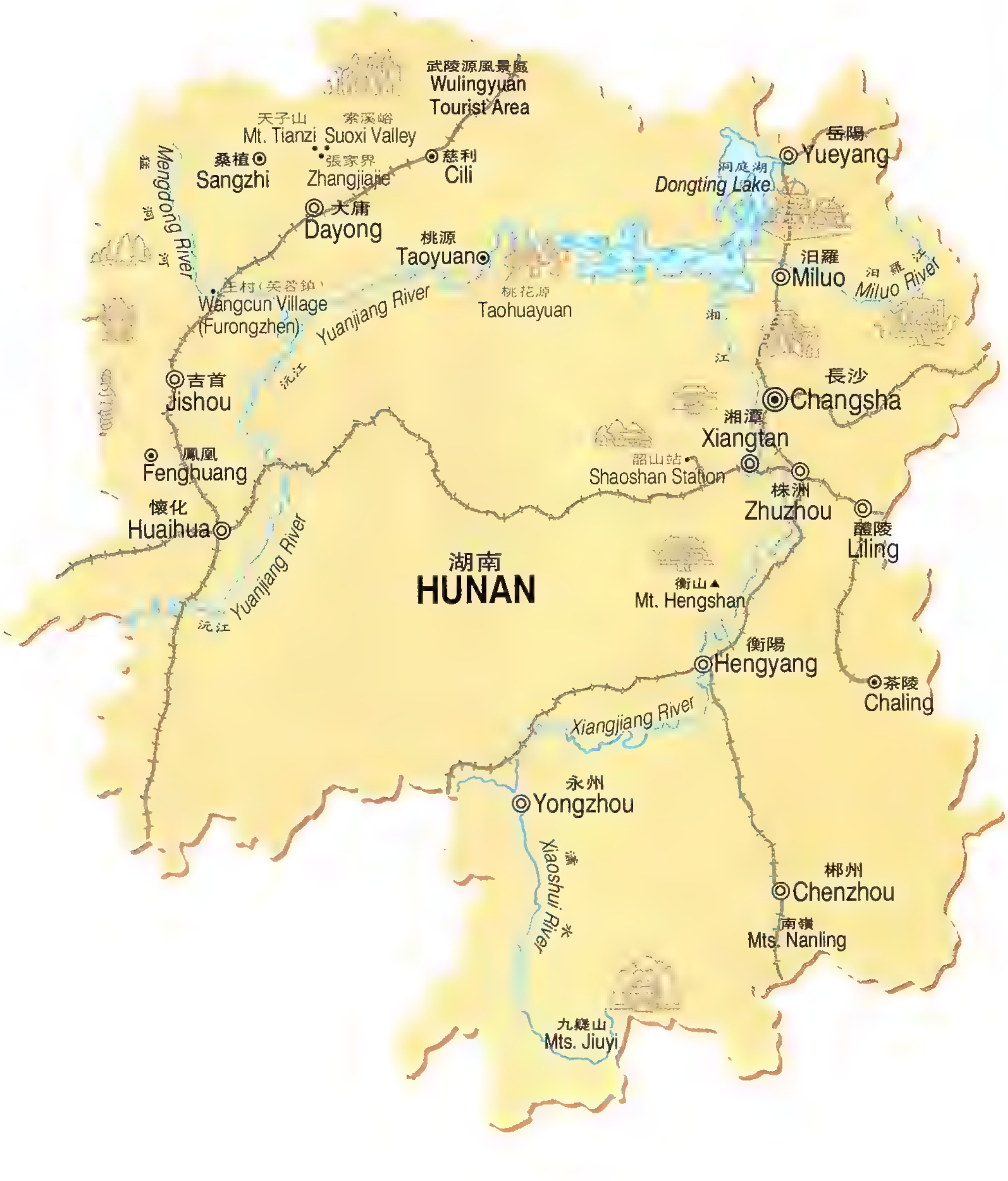
Those window frames in the form of bamboo are actually made of cement.

The pedagogical methods of the school were flexible. The basic principle in teaching was to enlighten the students. So teachers only concentrated on key points and left the rest for the students to understand by themselves. Tutorial sessions were frequent so that teachers and students could have more time for discussion or exchange of different views. The teachers were all learned Confucian scholars and many enjoyed an excellent reputation. They had trained a number of brilliant students as well. The well-known ones, who had later become great men serving the state included: Wei Yuan, Zuo Zongtang, Zeng Guofan, Liang Qichao and Cai E, to name only a few.

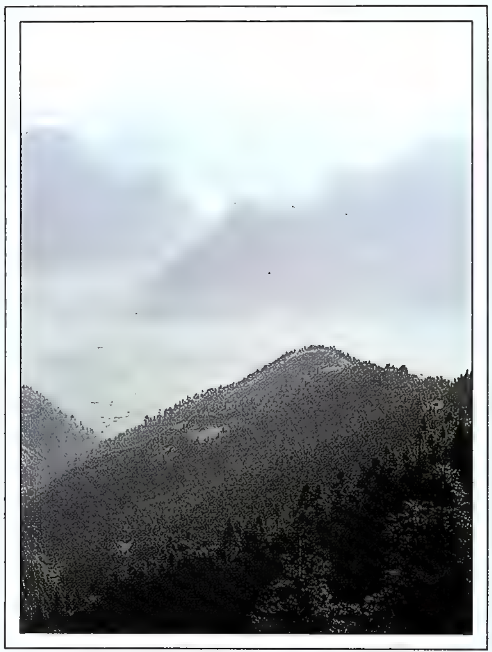
Translated by Wang Mingjie

Tourist Routes in Hunan Province

TEXT BY LAM KIN FAI


武陵源風景區
Wulingyuan Tourist Area
天子山
Mt. Tianzi
索溪峪
Suoxi Valley
張家界
Zhangjiajie
桑植
Sangzhi
慈利
Cili
大庸
Dayong
桃源
Taoyuan
桃花源
Taohuayuan
Mengdong River
猛洞河
王村（芙蓉鎮）
Wangcun Village (Furongzhen)
Yuanjiang River
沅江
吉首
Jishou
鳳凰
Fenghuang
懷化
Huaihua
Yuanjiang River
沅江
岳陽
Yueyang
洞庭湖
Dongting Lake
汨羅
Miluo
汨羅江
Miluo River
湘江
長沙
Changsha
湘潭
Xiangtan
韶山站
Shaoshan Station
株洲
Zhuzhou
醴陵
Liling
湖南
HUNAN
衡山
Mt. Hengshan
衡陽
Hengyang
茶陵
Chaling
Xiangjiang River
永州
Yongzhou
Xiaoshui River
瀟水
郴州
Chenzhou
南嶺
Mts. Nanling
九嶷山
Mts. Jiuyi

Zhurong Hall first built at the end of the sixteenth century stands at the summit of Mount Hengshan (by Du Younong).



The peaks of the Jiuyi Mountains form undulating silhouettes (by Lam Kin Fai).

Hunan Province, bordering on Guangdong Province and having the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway passing through its territory, plays an important role in the north-south transport by land because of its location. Last year a direct airline route between Hong Kong and Changsha, capital of the province, was opened, making transport even more convenient.

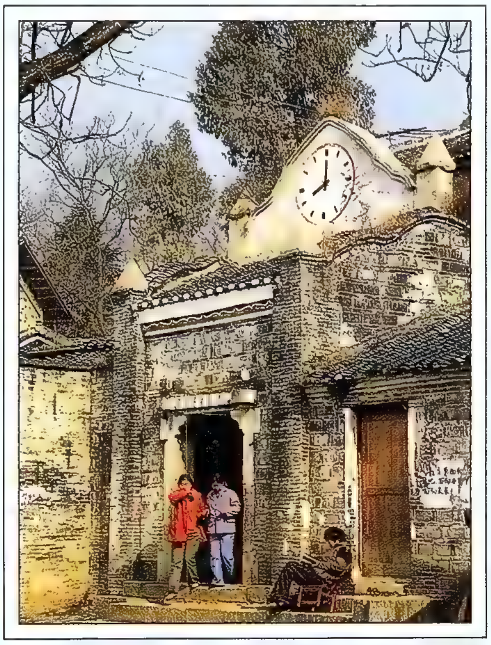
The tourist routes connecting various scenic spots in Hunan may be summed up as follows: "A mountain in the south, water in the north, an area in the west and a line in the east". "A mountain in the south" refers to the mountainous area featuring Hengshan Mountain in the southern part of Hunan Province, while "water in the north" describes a vast lake area drained by several rivers with the Dongting Lake as its centre. As for "an area in the west", it stands for an area in the west composed of the Tianzi Mountain, Zhangjiajie area and Suoxi Valley whereas "a line in the east" is a chain of tourist spots lying from north to south along the Xiangjiang River.

Hengshan Mountain for a Glimpse of Snow in Winter

Hengshan Mountain is one of China's five sacred mountains known for its 72 peaks, magnificent scenery and cultural sites. Starting from the mountain foot, the tourists may take a bus to get to various scenic spots in the mountain. During the past, Buddhist and Taoist temples were built here. Nanyue Temple, first established in 725, is the largest temple on any of the five sacred mountains and one of the three most famous temples in China. Fangguang Temple and Fuyan Temple trace their history to the sixth century. Zhurong Peak, the highest peak at 1,290 metres, features Zhurong Hall and Shangfeng Temple, all frequented by the Buddhist faithful, and offers a splendid view of the surrounding landscape.

An unusual mottled bamboo found on Mount Junshan in Lake Dongting near Yueyang (by Pan Ruyi).

The mausoleum of legendary Emperor Yandi in Lingxian County (by Lam Kin Fai)



A school in western Hunan's Wangcun Village (by Chan Yat Nin)

A tranquil scene on the Mengdong River in western Huna (by Tai Chi Yi

In recent years a graceful bamboo hotel has been built to provide travellers with lodging. Besides, the Hengshan Mountain is the nearest spot to Hong Kong for a snow seeing visit.

The Jiuyi Mountains Offer Distinctive Landscapes

South of the Hengshan Mountain stands the Nanling Mountain Range of which the Jiuyi Mountains are located in Ningyuan County. Similar to Guilin in topography but larger in area, the mountain range extends over 100 kilometres and boasts solitary peaks and forest-covered hills. The Jiuyi Mountains are the place where the legendary Emperor Shundi died. And hence the Shunyuan Peak, Ehuang Peak and Nüying Peak here are all imbued with a mythological character.

Yueyang Tower and Mount Junshan

The name of Hunan means "south of the lake" namely south of Dongting Lake. The area around Dongting Lake, known as the "mountain and water area", is one of the major tourist attractions of Hunan Province.

Along the Guangzhou-Beijing Railway the renowned city of Yueyang on the east shore of the lake has gained its fame from Yueyang Tower by the lake, one of the three famous towers in China. Besides, Mount Junshan in the Dongting Lake, fifteen kilometres southwest of the city, called Mount Dongting during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) an also known as Mount Xiangshan, is the centre of mythological stories and legends in the area of the Dongting Lake. The tear-dotte bamboo and the silver-white and needle-shaped tea produced here are among the best known specialized products of China.

Wulingyuan's Unusual Topography

"An area in the west" refers to the extensive landscapes of Wulingyuan composed o the picturesque Zhangjiajie area, the Tianzi Mountain and Suoxi Valley, a newly developed tourist area. Zhangjiajie is renowned for its

Changsha Railway Station (by Tai Chi Yin)

Aiwan Pavilion in Changsha was built of maple wood in 1792.

A Tujia child of western Hunan (by Tai Chi Yin)

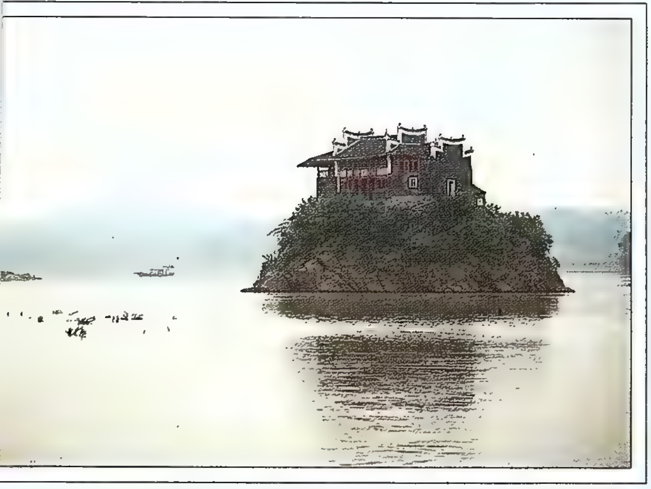
Suoxi Valley in Wulingyuan features spectacular karst landscape (by Tai Chi Yin).

grotesque terrain, the Tianzi Mountain for its steep slope and Suoxi Valley for its rich variety in topography. Today the roads, accommodation and infrastructure here have been dramatically improved.

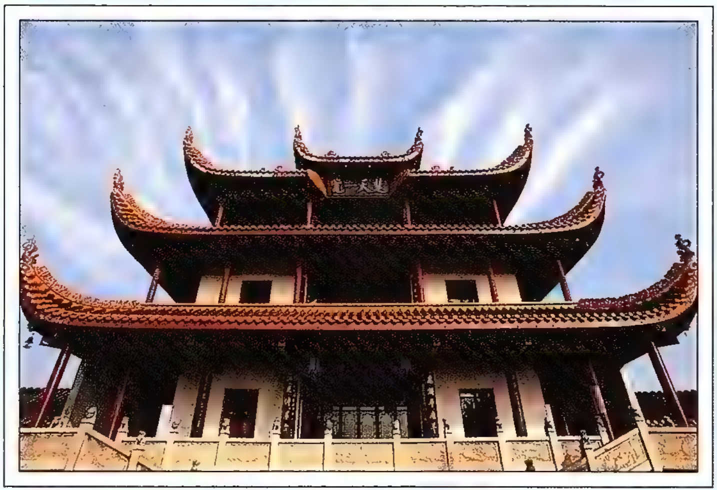
In terms of size, the area of "a line in the east" is the largest, rich in depth of landscapes and variety of hot and cold scenic spots. The "line" runs along the Xiangjiang River Valley through the whole province connecting various scenic spots with Yueyang in the north, and the Miluo River, a tributary of the Xiangjiang River a bit down south where Qu Yuan, the great poet of the State of Chu, drowned himself. Further south is Changsha, an ancient city with many historical monuments among which the Han tomb at Mawangdui is the most famous. Apart from the tomb, Mount Yuelu, Tianxin Pavilion, Lushan Temple, Aiwan Pavilion and Huogong Hall have their own appeal. South of the city lies Shaoshan, the home town of Mao Zedong, where his old house still stands.

Going through the city of Hengshan further south along the river, one arrives at Qiyang County, which boasts a stone slab forest with calligraphy carvings dating from various dynasties. The most famous one bears an inscription entitled "Ode to the Middle Resurrection of the Tang Dynasty", in the handwriting of Yan Zhenqing, a famous calligrapher during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The slab is seven metres high with over 300 characters, and is considered as a precious piece of Yan's calligraphy. Further south of Qiyang is Yongzhou where the tributary Xiaoshui River joins the Xiangjiang River. Liu Zongyuan, a famous Tang writer, was relegated as a local official and wrote eight essays describing the landscapes here, known as the *Eight Tourist Notes of Yongzhou*. As time went by, the landscapes have changed, but the city still retains a memorial temple dedicated to Liu.

Translated by Gu Weizhou



A small boat on the Xiangjiang River passes Yongzhou (by Lam Kin Fai).



Tianxin Pavilion in Changsha features ornate wood carvings (by Lam Kin Fai).

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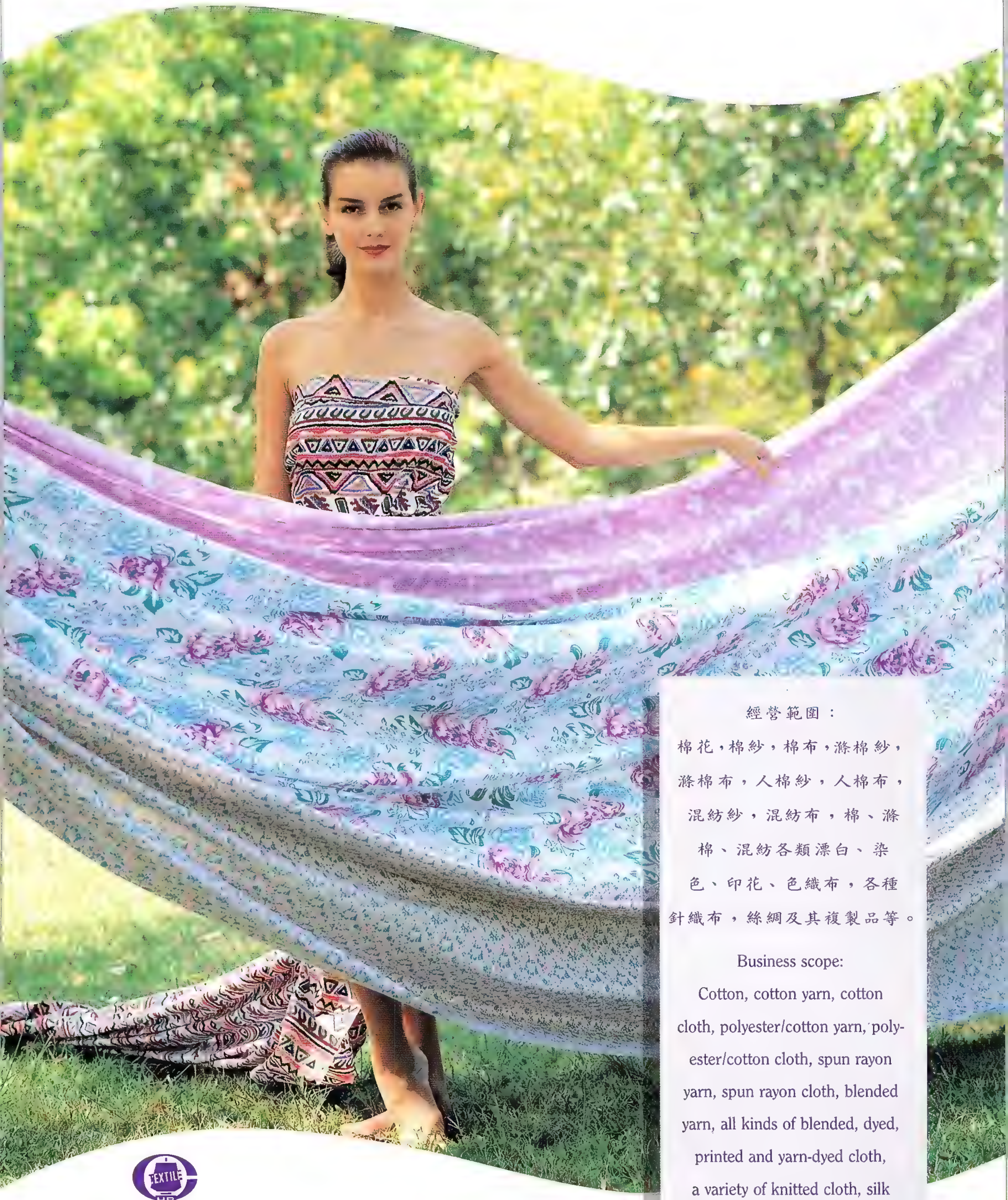

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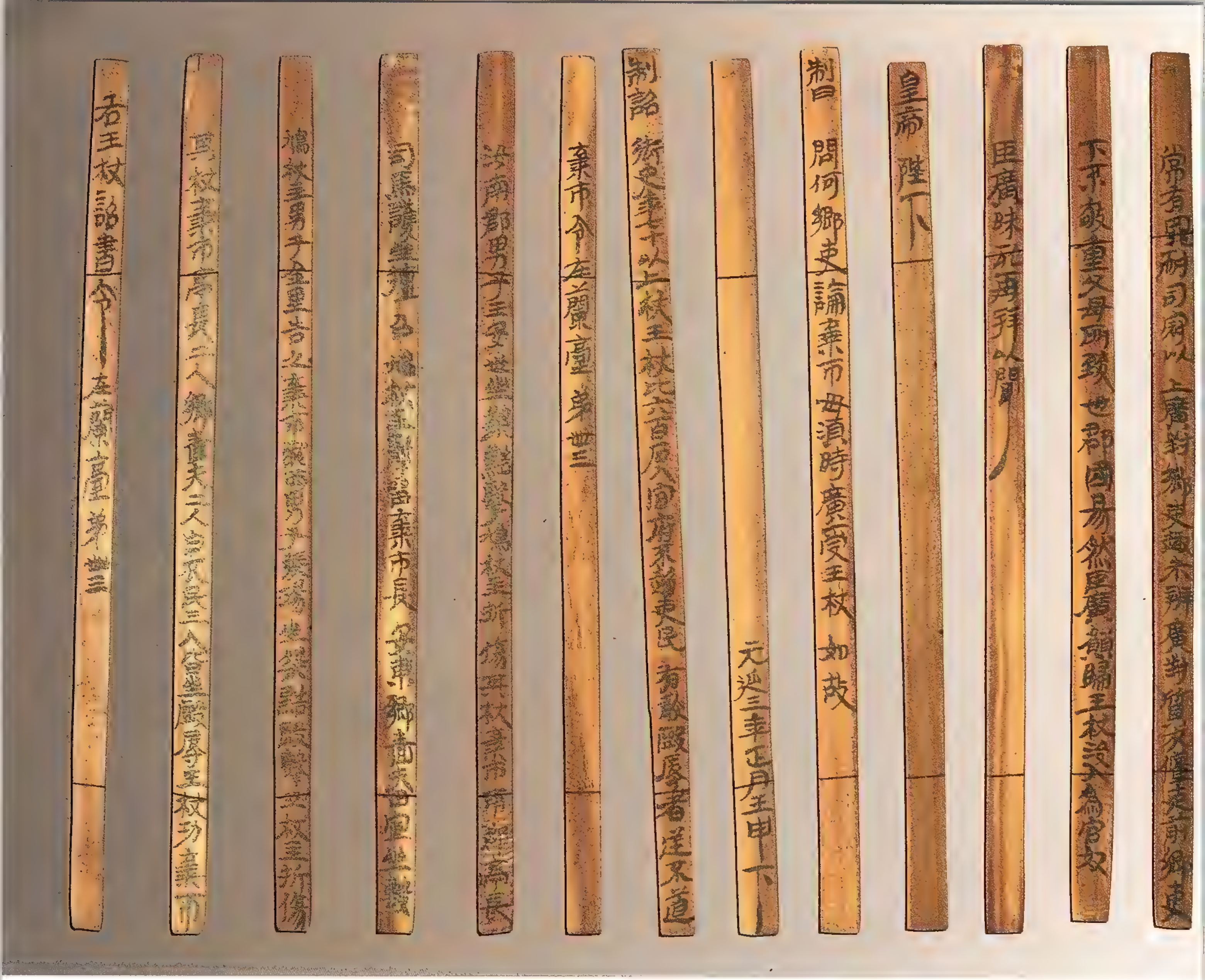


Royal Stick and Imperial Decree — ***a wooden strip book describing a decree on protection of elderly people in retirement***

The carved turtle-dove on top of the walking stick granted to elderly people by the Han emperor

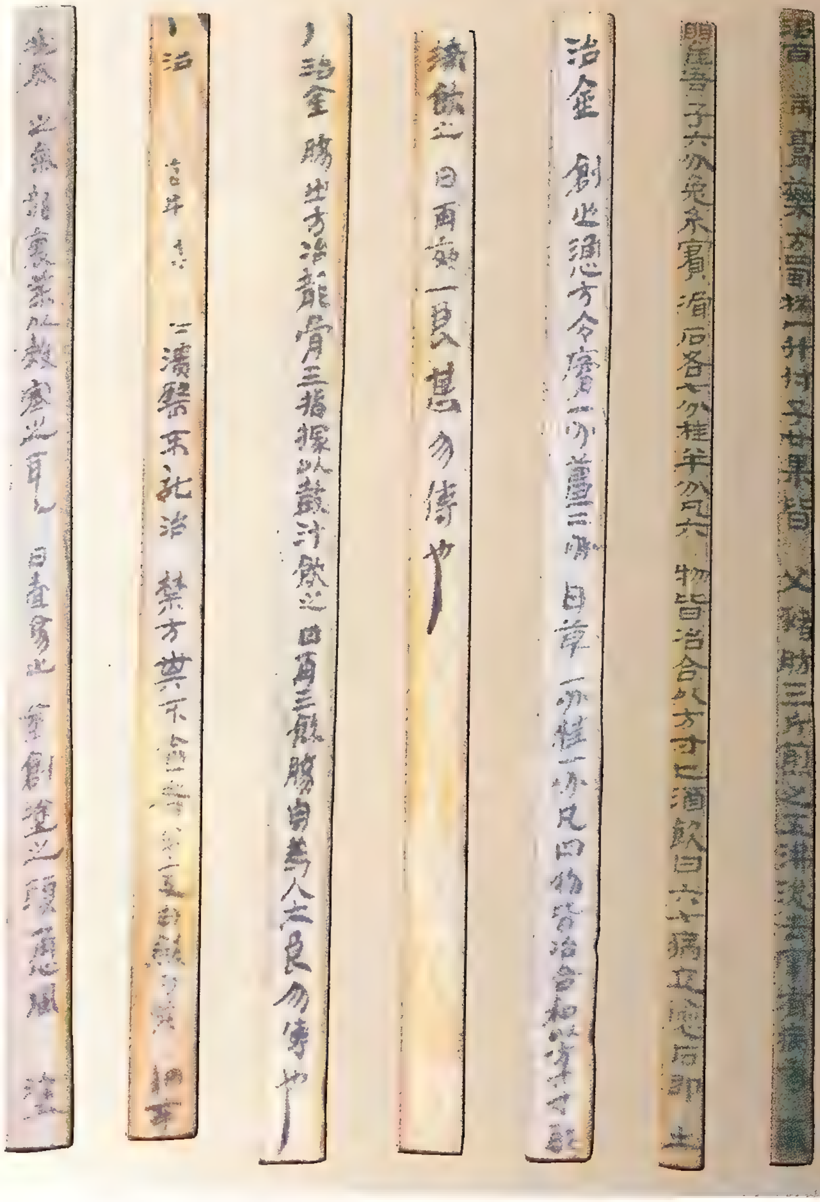
Alighting from our car in Mozuizi, in central Gansu, we ascended a slope with some difficulty and came to a place full of graves. The already excavated tombs greeted us with dark entrances. With skulls and skeletons lying about all over the slope it certainly gave us the creeps.

We entered a tomb, which had already been swept clean. My friend lit a match and led the way. The passage allowed one person to enter at a time. Pushing my sack back a bit, I followed him, camera in hand. The tomb was encompassed by darkness. I could see nothing. I crept along behind my friend. Groping our way forward a while we came to the central chamber. Flashing my camera bulb again and again I lit up the chamber. It was divided into a main hall and two side ones. There were strange murals on the walls. The pictures were painted on bricks, with patterns of clouds and water, flying birds, geometrical shapes and the Chinese character *yi* or one, represented by a dash, etc. The tomb had been ransacked many times before. There was practically nothing left in it, not even the remains of the tomb-occupant. I could not focus my camera properly. I did what I could, taking pictures by relying on my feelings rather than on the right lens aperture. I used up all the negative films in my camera and crept back along the original route, until I came to the entrance again.

In 1959 many wooden strips (the earliest form of book now extant in China) were excavated in a Han Dynasty tomb complex in Hantanpo, Mozuizi, Wuwei. They were the works of Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220) scholars. Wuwei used

Han Dynasty Tomb in Wuwei Contains Bamboo Strips

HOTOS BY MEI LIANG
EXT BY WEN MING



Yi Jian *or* **Book of Medicine** *in 92 strips, being the earliest such book extant in China*

to be a strategic point in the Gansu Corridor, serving as a garrison border town and an administrative prefecture under the Han imperial government. On this account a large number of historic relics have been left to posterity in Wuwei.

Strips made of wood or bamboo were the material for copying scripts during the period from the Warring States to the Wei and Jin Dynasties (475 B.C.–A.D. 420). Written with Chinese writing brush, the strips form themselves into *ce* (volumes). Among the *ce* so far excavated in China, the Han Dynasty ones in Gansu form the bulk and the most famous of these are bamboo strips found in Dunhuang, Juyan and Wuwei.

Of the strips discovered in the Han Dynasty tomb complex in Hantanpo, Mozuizi, Wuwei, the most valuable are *Yi Li* or *Book of Ceremonial Rites, Wang Mei Zhao Ling Ce* or *Royal Stick and Imperial Decree* and *Yi Jian* or *Book of Medicine.*

Yi Li, consisting of 469 strips, totals 27,000 words. It is divided into nine texts. The handwriting is clearly visible and fine. It is the best preserved hand-written copy of the *Book of Ceremonial Rites* dating from the Han Dynasty.

Yi Jian, in 92 strips, records over 30 prescriptions or instructions in dealing with internal medicine, surgery, gynaecology, diseases of the five sense organs and acupuncture. There are 100 medicinal herbs listed in the prescriptions. Detailed information is also provided on disease, symptoms, methods of cure, instructions for taking medicine, contraindication in acupuncture and moxibustion. It is the earliest medical book extant in China.

A lotus blossom painted on top of an ancient tomb. It has a plain and crude beauty.

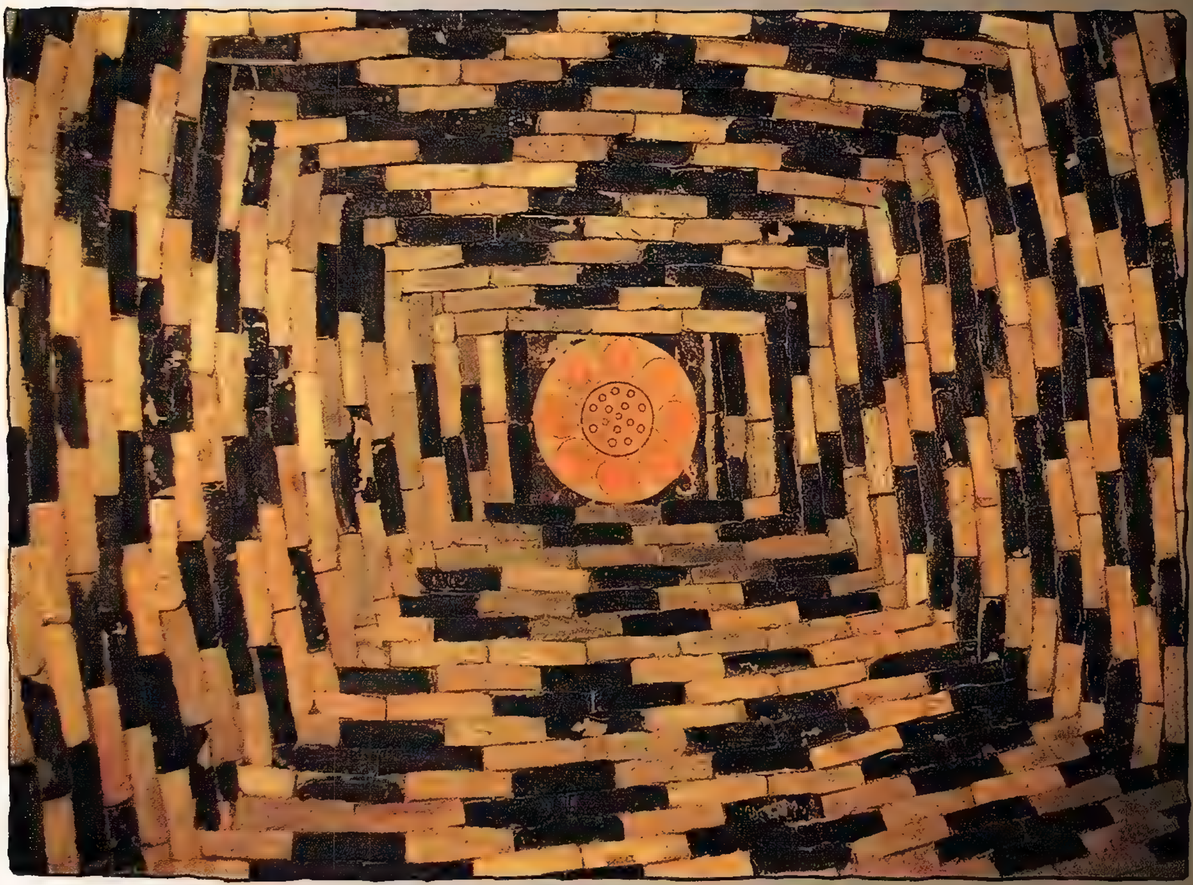
In 36 strips, *Royal Stick and Imperial Decree* is about rules and regulations for people in old age and retirement issued by a Han Dynasty emperor. The decree was written very carefully in official Han script. No mistake was found and nothing had been left out. The number of strips was arranged in an orderly manner.

In addition to the manuscript-decree, turtle-dove sticks were excavated in the grave complex. The stick, made especially for elderly people, has a turtle-dove with a grain of cereal in its beak carved on the top and measures two metres. The stick was made of smooth, hard wood. The carving is exquisite and the lines were preserved almost as good as new.

Emperors of the Han Dynasty paid special attention to the stick which was granted to elderly people. The *Record on Ceremonial Rites in the History of Later Han Dynasty* says that people reaching the age of 70 were granted sticks by the monarch. Those reaching the more advanced ages of 80 and 90 were honoured by further ceremonial rites and presented with another stick, nine feet in length, by the monarch. All sticks were carved with a turtle-dove pattern.

According to the book, Emperor Xuandi of the Han Dynasty stated that elderly people were given sticks so that other people might recognize them as symbols of the high integrity accredited to elderly ones. Those who dared insult holders of sticks would be violating ceremonial rites and punished accordingly; thus, the stick was, in effect, a sort of protection to the elderly people. It almost became a symbol of law under which elderly people enjoyed personal safety guaranteed to them by the emperor.

A funeral chamber lies in disorder with bricks heaped



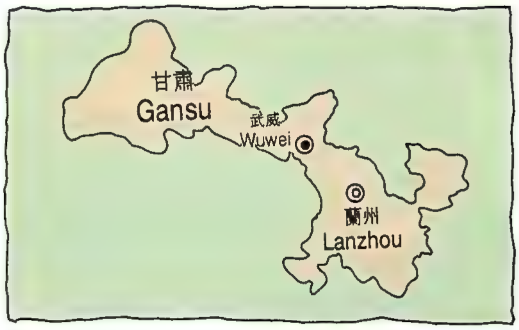
The caisson on top of the tomb. The bricks are paved in round shapes, which enhance the feeling of the depth of the tomb.

side.

But why was the turtle-dove chosen as a symbol for the protecton of elderly people? Legend attributes this to the founder of the Han Dynasty, Emperor Gaozu, who before becoming emperor, once suffered a military defeat in Xingyang in his fight against Xiang Yu in a bid for power to rule over China. Having been cornered he hid himself in a dried-up well. Two turtle-doves flew to the well and perched on it. Giving hot pursuit, Xiang Yu of the Chu nobility, the enemy and rival of Gaozu, came to the scene in search of the man. He heard the cooing of the turtle-doves and thought Emperor Gaozu could not have hidden himself in the well below. Xiang Yu finally retreated with his troops and Gaozu was out of danger.

Emperor Gaozu remembered this event and was happy at the thought of the birds, who had saved him from being captured by his arch enemy. He thought the birds were divine protection. So he made the turtle-dove a sort of symbol or identification for elderly people, who were to be respected by society. From then on respect for elderly people became a trait of the Han Dynasty, and Chinese culture as well.

Translated by He Fei



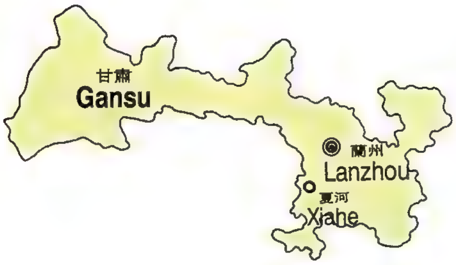
Tibetan Langshan Festival in Southern Gansu

PHOTOS & TEXT BY KANG XIYU

The most attractive white tents feature blue patterns.

Every year in July, when the slack season in farming and herding starts, the Tibetan people living in southern Gansu gather their grain, white tents and cooking utensils and go with their families to a mountain slope or a river bank to celebrate their annual Langshan Festival. They stay there for several days or even as long as a fortnight. "Langshan" means "gathering firewood" in Tibetan.

Legend has it that several hundred years ago during every summer the monks living in this area would collect firewood from deep in the mountains. As the distance was too far, they would not be able to return in the same day. If they had a lot of firewood to gather, they would spend several days there. During the time when they had nothing to do, they would go exploring or organize recreational activities. Later, this form of activity spread to Labrung and other places, from the monks in monasteries to the common folk, and eventually became a traditional festival of the Tibetan people in southern Gansu.



People gather in front of their tents before the start of the sports meet.

Young men and women splash water over each other. They usually take this opportunity to become engaged.

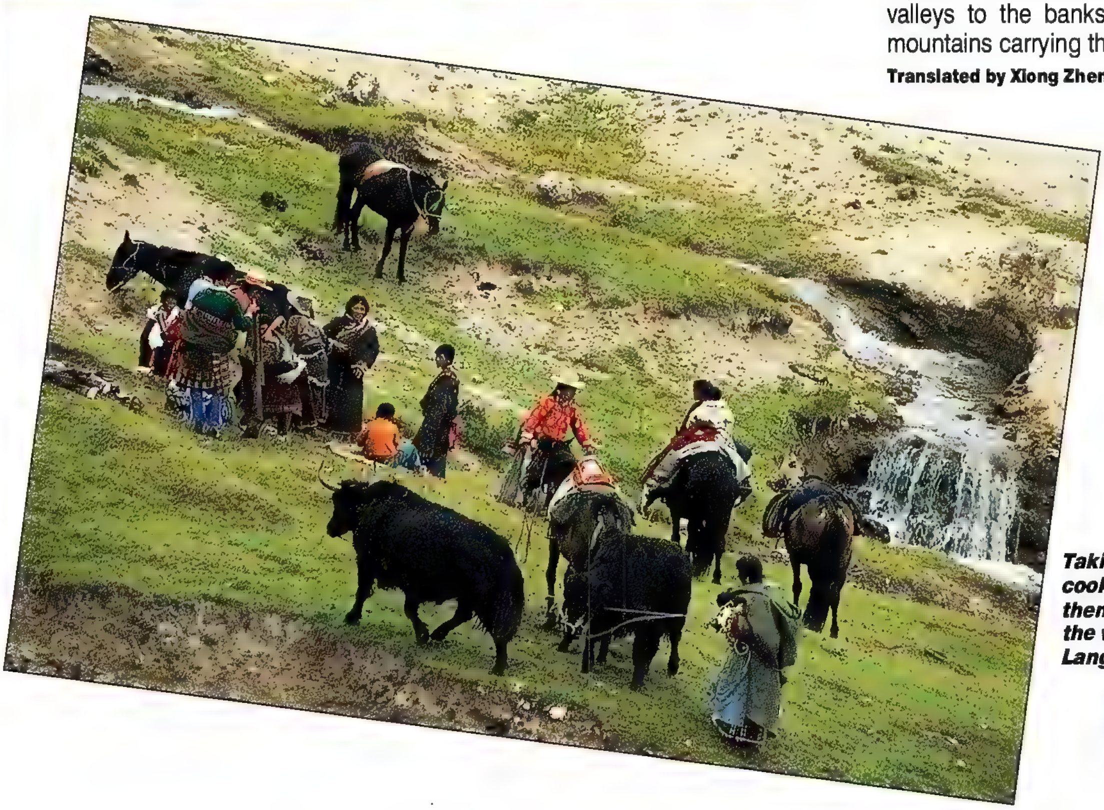
Singing and dancing around the bonfire

Preparing a meal to the music from a large tape recorder

The Langshan Festival resembles an outing, or a walk in the countryside during spring in other parts of the country. Tents, most of which are made of white cloth or canvas, are constructed on the grasslands. The white cloth ones with traditional Tibetan designs in blue are the most attractive. During the festival people visit each other to exchange greetings. In some places contests such as horse races, wrestling, tug-of-war by men and women and even tug-of-war by "elephants", are held to enhance the festive atmosphere. In the "elephant" tug-of-war, two people place a rope or a coloured ribbon which resembles an elephant's trunk around their necks and then pass the rope between their legs. Then they proceed to stand back-to-back and start a contest of strength by pulling the rope in opposite directions with both of their hands touching the ground. Motivated by the spirit of the occasion, sometimes even aged elders will go to the sports venue to challenge the young people. It is a scene radiating bustle and excitement. However, not everyone chooses these activities. Some young men and women prefer to go to the streams to splash water at each other for amusement.

After the sports meet, everyone returns to their tents to prepare supper, which usually consists of such typical local dishes as hand-picking mutton, rice, Tibetan-style steamed stuffed buns, milk tea and wine. Tibetan people are very hospitable. They gladly invited me to join them for dinner even though I was an unexpected guest. After supper, the young men and women dress in gaily-coloured clothes and come to the open square, light a bonfire and start to sing and dance. They pass around a wine bottle amongst themselves. After a while, they begin to dance. Some get together and dance disco. They do not stop until the small hours of the morning. The rhythm of their songs are heard everywhere, from the valleys to the banks of streams and the peaks of mountains carrying the message of good cheer.

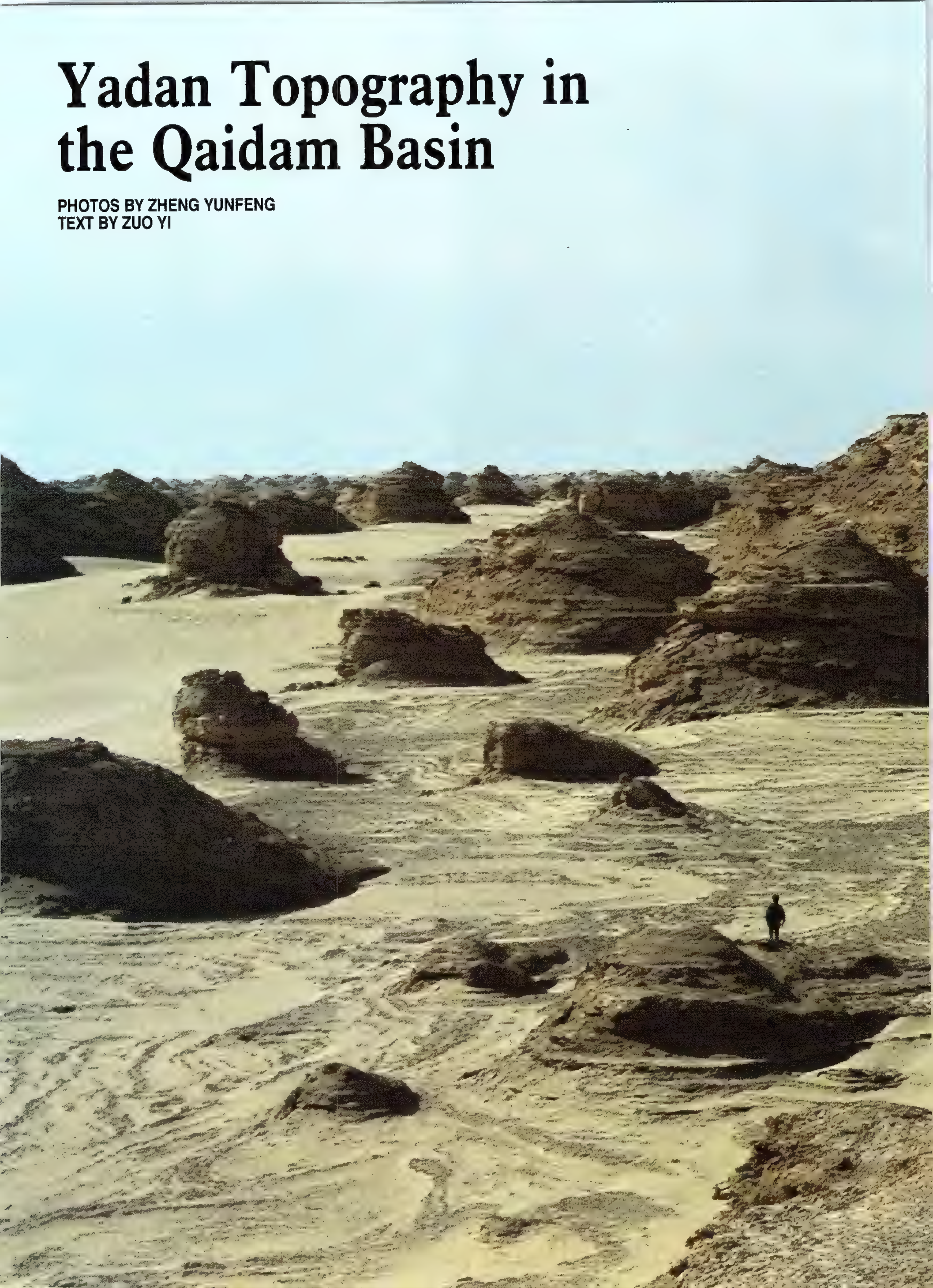
Translated by Xiong Zhenru



Taking grain and cooking utensils with them they head towards the wilderness for the Langshan Festival.

Yadan Topography in the Qaidam Basin

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG
TEXT BY ZUO YI



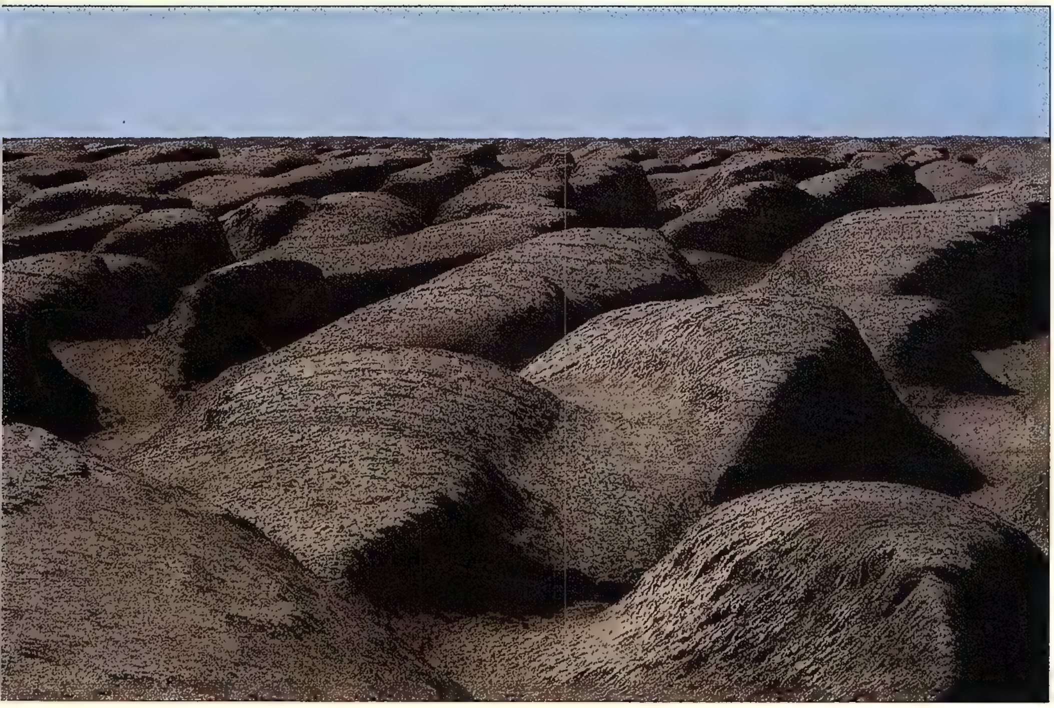
This mound has withstood the wind erosion for a thousand years. It is a witness of this dead-quiet part of the world (by Zuo Yi).

Confronted with huge topographical features of the desert, man seems to be insignificant.

Enclosed in the innermost part of the Qinghai Plateau, the Qaidam Basin lies completely sealed off by the Altun Mountains in the north and the Qilian Mountains and the Kunlun Mountains in the south, covering an area roughly triangular in shape which tapers off from west to east amid a moonscape of mountains and plateaus generally over 4,000 metres at sea level. Within its territory of 220,000 square kilometres, there are more than 5,000 salt lakes, of which the largest is the Qarhan Lake with an area of 1,600 square kilometres, having a solid, salty surface like any piece of land. The Qaidam Basin is rich not only in salt, but in minerals such as oil, asbetos, lead and zinc, which has earned it the sobriquet "Treasure Basin".

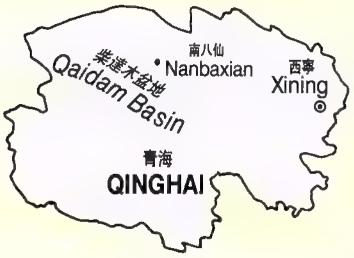
Last summer, furnished with canned food and a fully-fuelled car, I went into the depth of the Qaidam Basin. Setting off from Qarhan, I went north along a road over the salt flats and having covered a distance of 31 kilometres arrived at Iqe where I turned west towards Nanbaxian.

Several hours passed, but we did not meet any car on the way. I was told that the western part of the Treasure Basin was a barren stretch of desolation where "there is no grass on the ground nor birds in the sky". Although there is a long distance bus coming here every several days, no passengers get off here because there is nothing but saline water, alkaline soil and a harsh climate. It is very hot when sunny and bitterly cold without the sunshine. Of course, no one would like to live or stay here for long.



▲ The ridges of these hills run in the same direction looking like a school of whales in the sea.

▶ Seen from afar, the forms look like camels resting in the desert. A closer look shows the true face of these grit formations created by the wind.



The Wind-Fashioned Desert Terrain

It is said that during the rainy seasons of spring and autumn, the wind here has a great velocity, especially the northwest and southwest winds which have a velocity of 54 to 72 kilometres per hour. Worse than this, there often are hurricane force gusts not only capable of blowing small stones away but also moving egg-sized pebbles off the ground as well. Blocked by the Kunlun Mountains in the south, the wind changes direction and reduces velocity, depositing the pebbles and sands on the ground. Here there is obstruction, thus, the wind deposits a narrow band of pebbles. If the pebble band is wide in a particular place, it means that there is a freer wind flow which can carry more and more pebbles there. The desert landscapes are formed by the erosion and collapse of rocks on the surrounding mountains and the transportation of rock fragments and sand by the wind.

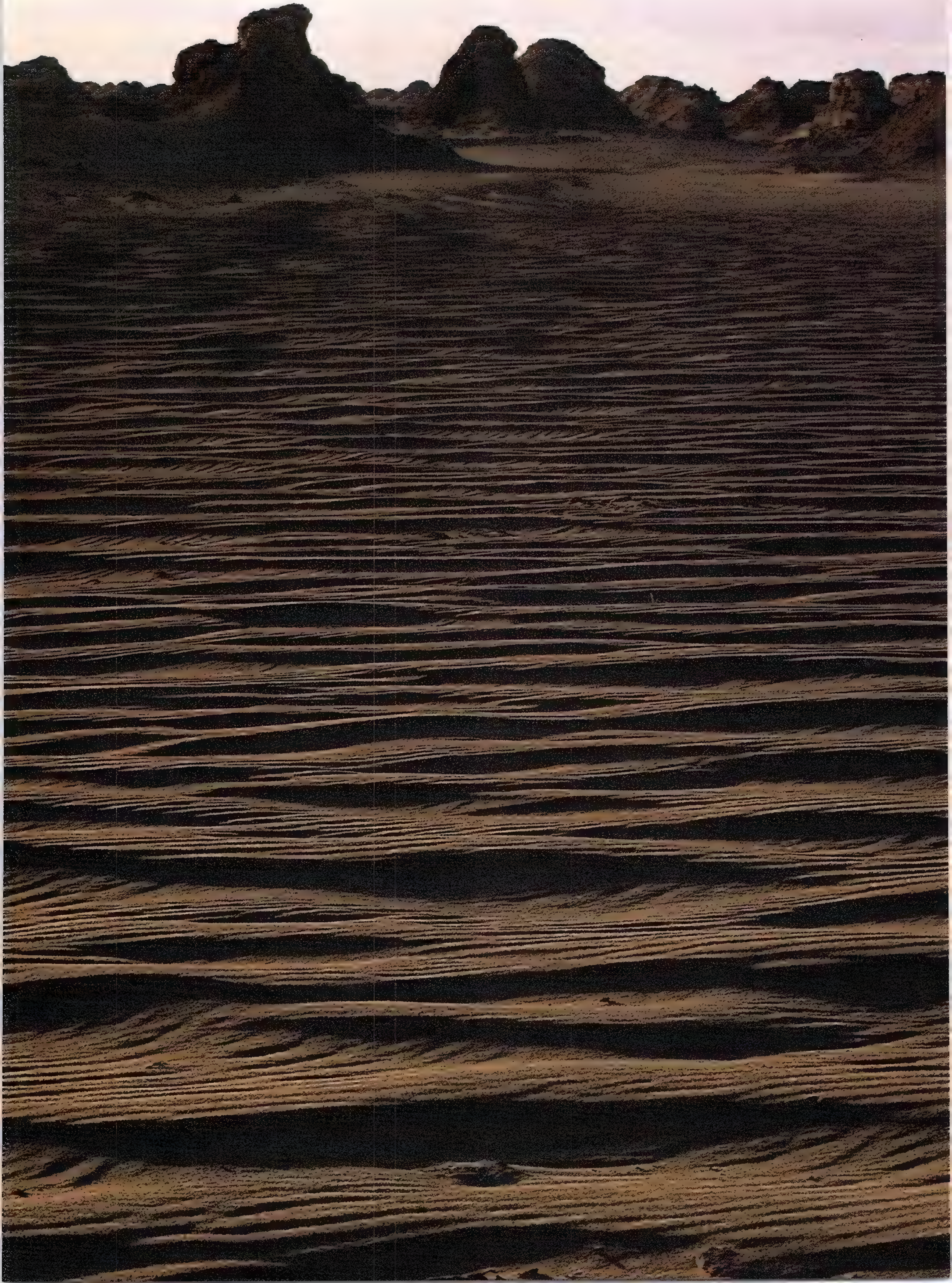
I was captivated by the stark splendour of the scene when all of a sudden I was distracted by a misty expanse in front of the car, seeming to be a dust storm caused by a multitude of galloping camels in the distance. Where did the camels come from in this "no man land"? Filled with curiosity, we speeded up to inspect more closely. The nearer we got, the more slowly the camels appeared to move. Finally they stopped and the misty expanse dispersed away. Zeroing in on our quarry, we saw no real camels, but grit formations not unlike rockery rising out of a vast expanse. I was glad that at last I had arrived at the area of the Qaidam Basin featuring unique Yadan topography.

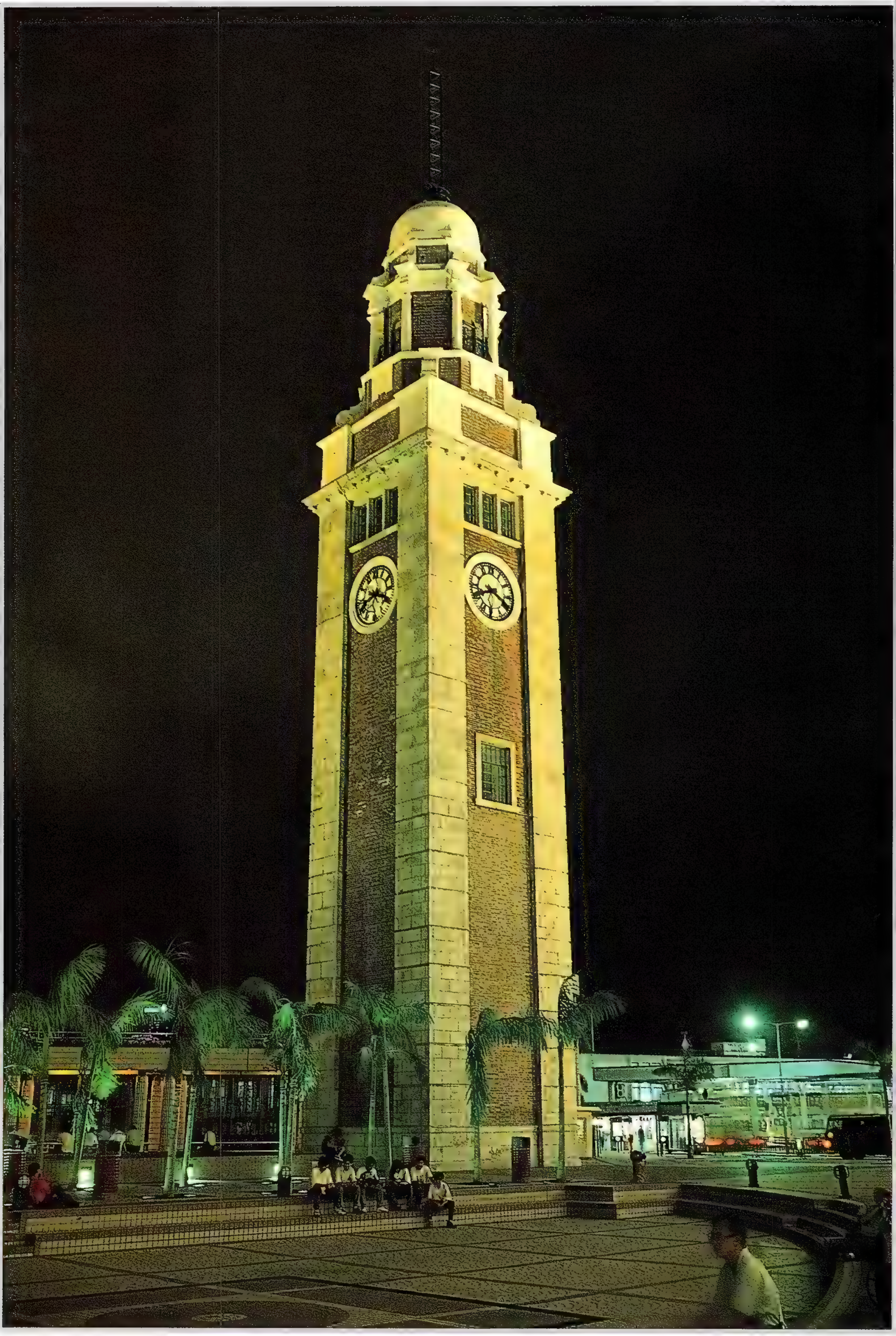
The Formation of Yadan Topography

Yadan is a Uighur word spoken by the Uighurs in Qinghai and Xinjiang, originally meaning "the hill with steep cliffs". Now it has become a specialized term, generally denoting the wind-eroded terrain formed by the ridges, odd-shaped hills and wide gullies caused by the wind erosion. At a closer look, I found how wonderful the topographical outlines created by the wind erosion were! Some of them were standing; some looked to be lying; some resembled beasts with a lion's face and a bear's body; others seemed to be raging tigers and still more impersonated human beings who were drinking with the face raised up. The solitary hills of all heights created an impression of castle ruins, majestic and overbearing. Like all fish's backs in a school those ridges flanked by the gullies run in the same direction, giving the impression of a shoal of whales in the vast ocean. Faced with such huge terrain features with a height multiplied several times by a man's height and a barren area stretching hundreds of square kilometres, I could humbly realize how insignificant a man was, indeed.

Just how was the grotesque Yadan topography formed? The Qaidam Basin ironically is over 2,600 metres in elevation. On the leeward side of the mountains, it is dry and windy with long hours of sunshine. The soil is sandy. Besides, the strata here is mainly composed of soft marlstone and sandstone, which, under the abrasion of sand carried by strong winds, crack and are eroded into more or less parallel elongated hills and mountains characteristic of Yadan topography.

Translated by Gu Weizhou





The erstwhile Railway Station Clock tower, now more than 70 years old, has become a landmark of the Kowloon peninsula.

TSIMSHATSUI

A Tourist Paradise

PHOTOS BY TAI CHI YIN ARTICLE BY ZHONG LIU

Looking down from the Peak in the evening, one can see the shimmering reflection on the surface of the harbour of the Kowloon Peninsula lit up by thousands of lights (by Chapman Lee).

尖沙咀

Tsimshatsui, which is at the southern tip of the Kowloon Peninsula is at present, the most attractive tourist paradise. It is probably the only area in Hong Kong with luxurious hotels, office buildings, big shopping arcades, various entertainment establishments, cultural and recreational facilities and "green areas" all in the same vicinity, performing the functions of both a commercial and recreational centre as well as a tourist mecca in the territory.

Although Tsimshatsui, like many other metropolitan districts, has the most spectacular commercial buildings set against a clean and opulent surrounding frequented by many visitors strolling along the well-laid out roads, one does not sense the pressure from the rat race in the business world but a more the feeling of the lively, relaxed and pleasant benefits unique to modern city life. The most frequented parts in Tsimshatsui include areas around the southwestern shore, both sides of Nathan Road and Tsimshatsui East. These are areas where the vibrant essence of the district lies.

Besides a ferry pier, along the southeastern shore line, there are a number of big shopping arcades cum office complexes, such as Harbour City and China Hong Kong City. Cultural attractions here include the recently completed Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the Space Museum and the newly opened Hong Kong Museum of Art.

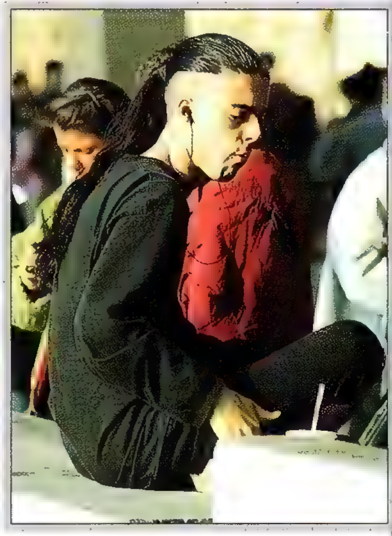
Newspaper Stands That Despatch News of the World

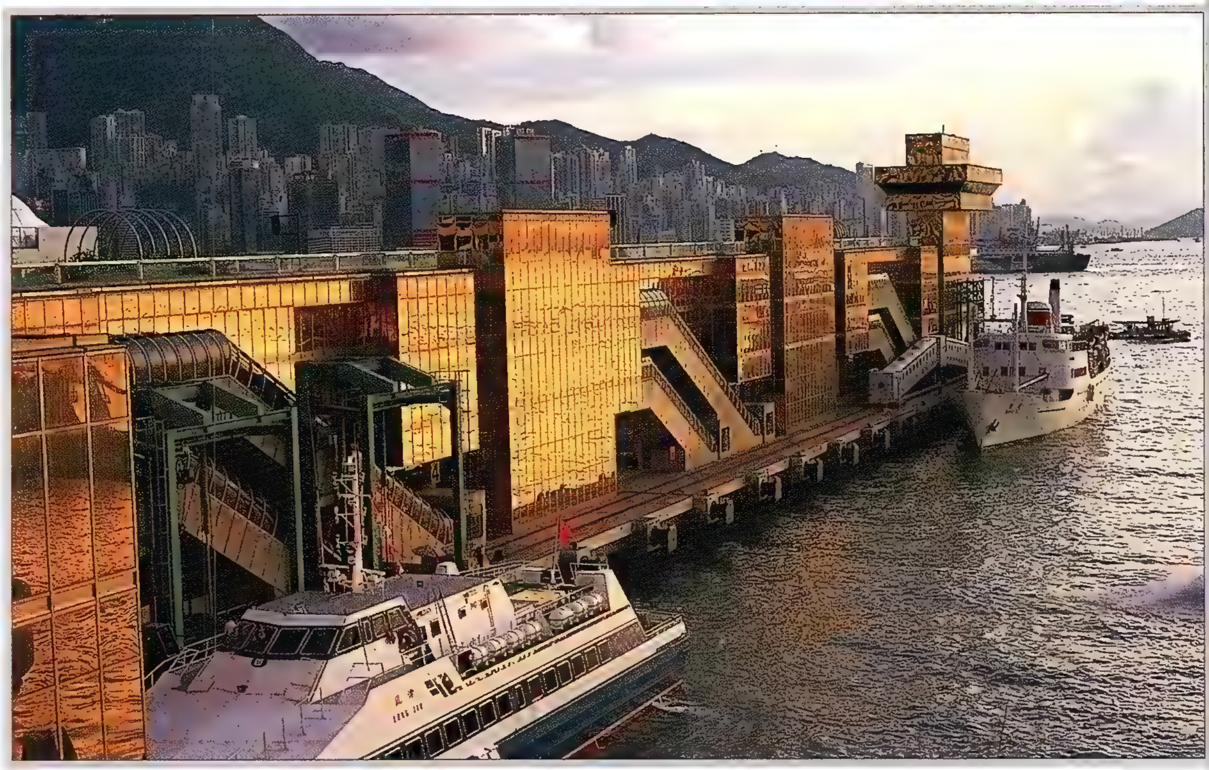
Right outside the Tsimshatsui ferry pier, one is greeted by several big newspaper stands which are different from other newspaper stands in Hong Kong. Besides the local newspapers, one can also

Left:
Tsimshatsui has become a frequently visited spot for tourists from overseas and local expatriates alike. That is why one can find periodicals from various countries on sale at newspaper stands in the area.

Right:
This foreign visitor seems to be enjoying the leisure of watching all kinds of people walking by while sitting next to the Tsimshatsui ferry pier listening to his walkman.

PRIVATE EYE
FASHION NEWS
VIDEO
PLAYBOY
CAMCORDER
GRAMO
KENT





The golden plane glass on the exterior of the China Hong Kong City glitters in the evening sun.

find newspapers in different languages such as *Le Monde* of France, *The Times* of Britain, *Asahi Shimbun* of Japan, *Lian He Jie Pao* of Singapore, *Nanyang Siuan Pau* of Malaysia and *People's Daily* of China on sale here. Newspapers which are rarely available at other newspaper stands in the territory are displayed for all those interested.

The Five Flag Poles — The Open Air Waiting Room

Next to the exit at the ferry pier stand five flag poles with five small flags fluttering above. Groups of people often gather at the foot of the poles. The day I visited the area happened to be a holiday and the vicinity of the flag poles was literally filled with people, the majority of which wore eager anticipation on their faces. They were obviously supposed to meet their friends, some of whom had the habit of showing up late. I bet few people would remember when the five flag poles became an "open air waiting room".

Probably because of the crowds that gathered there, as well as the volume passing through, young people from foreign countries began to open their business — handicraft accessories stores — there. Others set up a stage for performances in the area. Armed with a guitar, they would sing their best tunes to entertain passersby and earn some pocket money. Now those who are to meet their friends there do not have to be bored from waiting since they could enjoy free music and a variety of performances in the shadow of the famous five flag poles.

Ocean Terminal — One of Hong Kong's First Major Shopping Centres

Opened in 1966, Ocean Terminal was the first shopping arcade with a central air-conditioning system which keeps visitors cool during summer and warm when the winter breeze blows. Since it has

The coffee shop in the Peninsula Hotel used to be almost exclusively the favourite place for afternoon tea for customers from the more affluent class. Today, however, even "ordinary" people wearing casual clothes are welcome to enjoy snacks there.

more spacious corridors than newer shopping centres built in recent years, Ocean Terminal would seem not so crowded as other shopping areas of the kind even if the same number of shoppers came.

Stepping outside of the side exits, one would find himself standing on the veranda overlooking the world famous scenic Victoria Harbour. Sometimes one could also see gigantic ocean liners anchored right next to the terminal, graphic evidence that the harbour is a deep water port.

On both sides of the corridor within the arcade were elegantly decorated shops, many of which sell traditional Chinese handicrafts which tourists and locals alike find most attractive. The merchandise being displayed includes big Buddha statues, images of the Goddess of Mercy, ivory sculptures, antique porcelain bowls and vases, lacquered wooden furniture, etc. The Harbour City next door to the Ocean Terminal and other indoor shopping centres nearby such as the newly opened China Hong Kong City and New World Centre in Tsimshatsui East, however, are dominated by shops that sell the latest fashion clothes, accessories, jewellery and audio-visual equipment.

The Cultural Centre – A Landmark of Splendour and Elegance

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre was built on the site where the old Kowloon-Canton Railway Station used to stand. It is the biggest and the most advanced facility equipped to present different entertainment and cultural activities in Hong Kong. The City Hall in Central District across the harbour has certainly lost some of the attention of art lovers to the cultural centre since the latter opened.

The cultural centre, which resembles a big concrete wall viewed from a distance could actually serve as a giant projection screen. In fact, an audio-visual spectacle showing multiple slides synchronized with music was presented late last year using the exterior wall of the centre as the screen. The use of pillars and beams in the street level design of the centre, I was told, was inspired by the Great Wall of China. The cylindrical stone columns in the promenade along the shoreline outside the building, however, were styled after ancient Greek architecture.

Entering the cultural centre, one would be impressed by its stylish and elegant design as well as its sophisticated facilities. In the oval-shaped concert hall, one could find the biggest pipe organ in Southeast Asia. The 93 stops and 8,000 resonance pipes can produce music at a volume comparable to that played by a grand symphony orchestra. Other advanced design features include the stage with a rotational set changing system and the remote control adjustable height orchestra bay in the grand theatre.

Be an Astronaut in the Space Museum

Next door to the cultural centre is the Hong Kong Space Museum which is shaped a bit like a geodesic dome. The upper floor of the dome is the Space Theatre. Visitors could lean back on the soft sofa type seats and enjoy movies about the mysteries and facts of the world around us as well as in outer space projected onto the huge dome-shaped screen on the ceiling of the building by the Omnimax projector that creates a three dimensional perspective of scenes and objects shown. The rimless universe in which the sun and moon shine, and the nine planets of the solar system come to life before our eyes on the soot black screen are accompanied by the most magnificent music and ground effects.

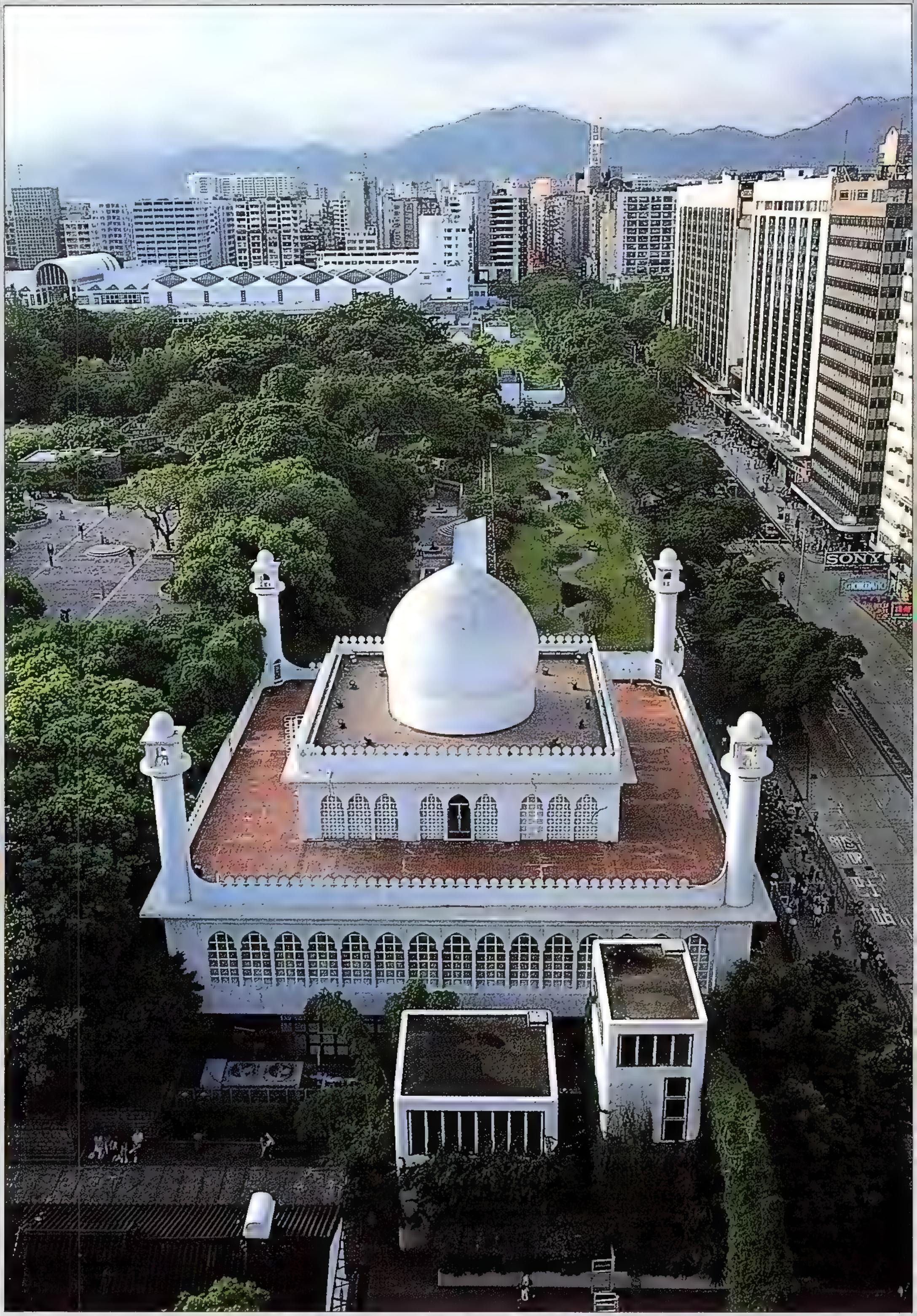
The exhibition hall on the ground floor of the museum has recently been renovated to allow visitors to experience what it is like to be an astronaut. Here one not only could bounce around in a surrounding without the pull of gravity but could also float in mid-air.

Art Museum Moves into Expanded Facility

Hong Kong entered a new era in art connoisseurship with the recent opening of the new expanded facility of the Hong Kong Museum of Art in the cultural centre. The museum has four major collections: Hong Kong contemporary art, historical pictures, Chinese antiquities and Chinese fine art. In the latter two collections, emphasis is on art from Guangdong, and the museum has managed to build up impressive collections in these two areas.

In the Historical Pictures collection, one can see important representative works on views of Hong Kong harbour, Macau and the Guangzhou factories, which capture the life, activities, customs and topography of the Pearl River estuary. The Chinese Fine A collection features Lingnan School paintings, Guangdong paintir and calligraphy as a whole, fan painting by Shanghai masters ar paintings of the late Qing era. In Chinese antiquities, the museum strong in Yixing and Shiwan ceramics, bamboo carvings and Beijir glass.

Nathan Road in central Tsimshatsui is just on the other side Salisbury Road from the cultural centre and space museum. On th two sides of Nathan Road which stretches right through centr Tsimshatsui, one can find hotels of various sizes and all sort buildings. The pavements on both side of the wide and straight roa are almost always crowded with people; however, even in the midd



Exotic and elegant are probably the two most appropriate adjectives one could think of to describe the Kowloon Mosque located next to the Kowloon Park. The mirrors on the ceiling enhance these effects.

of this concrete jungle, one could still find an oasis — Kowloon Park with a Moslem mosque as its neighbour. In the vicinity of the park along Nathan Road are restaurants serving cusines from countries all over the world. Hence, the area is also known as a gourmets' paradise.

At the junction of Salisbury Road and Nathan Road stands the world-renowned Peninsula Hotel which was opened more than 60 years ago. It is still considered one of the ten best hotels in the world nowadays. The squared U-shaped hotel building, the round fountain in front of the main entrance of the hotel, the huge pillars and high ceiling of the hotel lobby, the arched windows and marble walls, all reflected the romantic ambiance of European continental life style in the 1930s. The two large images of the Chinese door gods on the glass door of the main entrance, however, add an oriental touch to the splendid hotel.

Beside five-star hotels, such as The Peninsula, which provide first class service and luxurious accommodation, one could also find inexpensive guest houses of hostels with bed spaces for rent at HK$30 to HK$40 a day close by in Tsimshatsui. Chungking Mansion on Nathan Road is perhaps the best-known building where a number of such smaller guesthouses could be found. One probably could not expect too much of the service, if any is provided at all, rendered by the operators of those guesthouses. Their only advantage is the cheap prices. Hence, most of the guests are young

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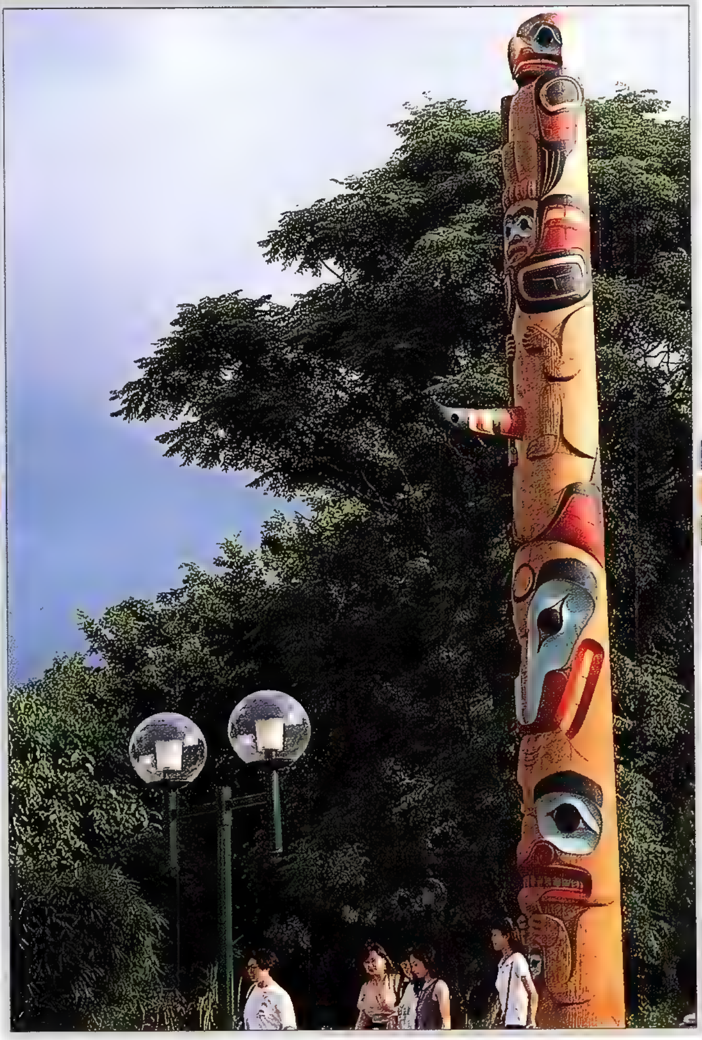
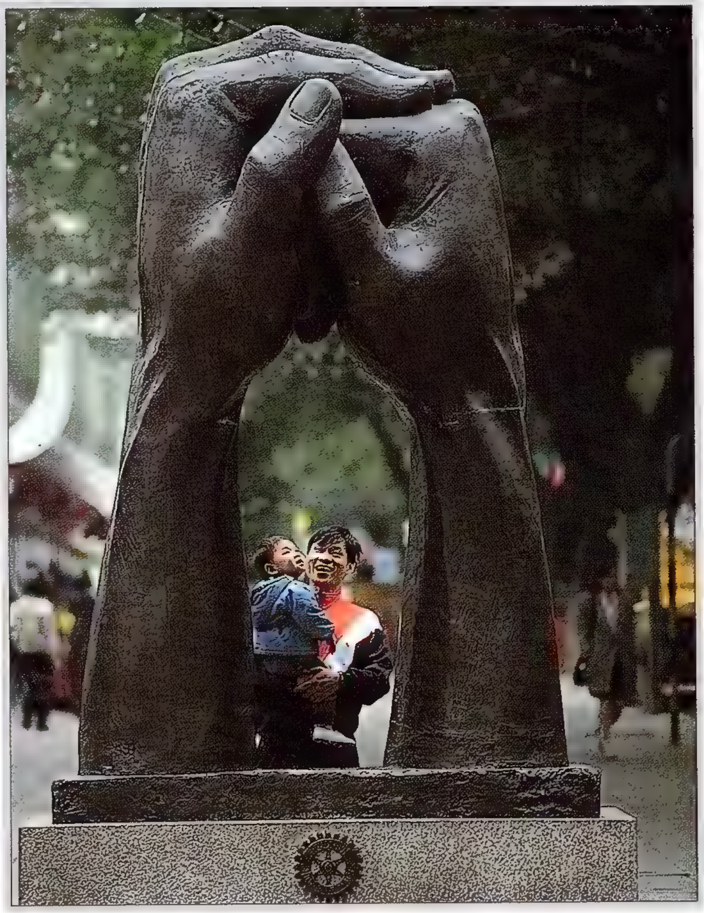
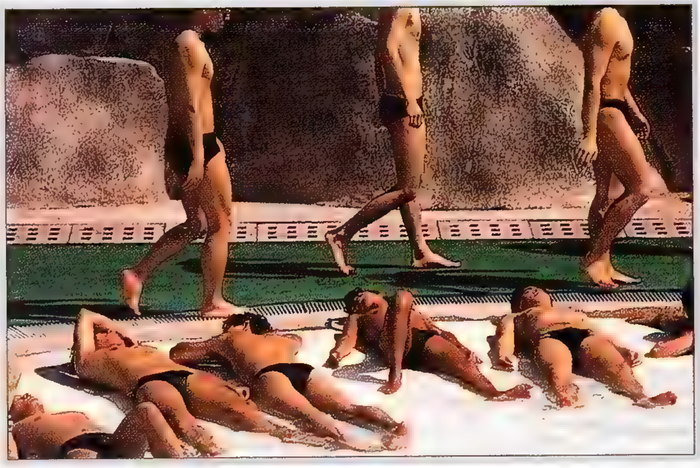
Nathan Road, lined with shops on both sides, is a major attraction for local and overseas shoppers.



This Red Indian totem pole which now stands in Kowloon Park was a gift from a Canadian Prime Minister to Hong Kong (by Wong Kin Man).



A sculpture on Park Lane Shoppers' Boulevard



One of the swimming pools at Kowloon Park attracts sunbathers (by Wong Kin Man).

In June every year, Hong Kong hosts the International Dragon Boat Festival during which teams from different countries around the world compete in the harbour along the shore of Tsimshatsui East (by Chan Yat Nin).

travellers with knapsacks on their back and Indian hawkers. In the shopping arcade on the ground floor of the building one can also find many tailor shops run by Indians born in Hong Kong who speak fluent Cantonese. The merchandise on sale in those shops are mainly business-style suits and dresses.

Kowloon Mosque

I learned that there are three major mosques in the territory and the Kowloon Mosque on Nathan Road in Tsimshatsui, which was rebuilt in 1984, is the biggest as well as the most ornately decorated of the three. It is also the only one located so close to an important centre within a district. The mosque, which occupies a total floor area of 1,500 square metres, cost more than HK$26 million to rebuild. The grand crystal lamp hanging from the ceiling of the mosque and the marble window with incised patterns were both made in Beijing.

Every day at sunset, a golden tint would cover the pearl white walls of the mosque giving it an elegant touch and creating a corner of solemnity to the busy street lit up with neon signs just outside its door.

The Kowloon Park with a Grand Sports Stadium and Sculpture Exhibition Lounge

Ascending the stairway next to the Kowloon Mosque takes people into the Kowloon Park which was expanded in 1989 to cover a total area of 14 hectares with greenery and other recreational grounds.

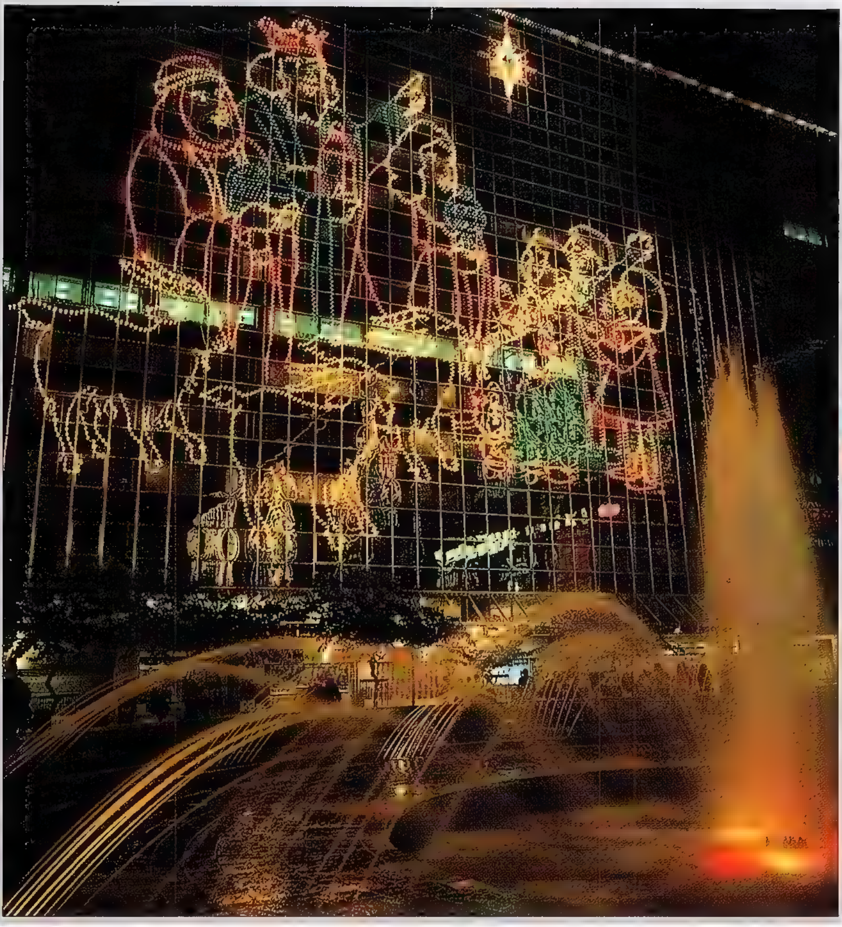
It has the biggest indoor sports centre in Hong Kong with a total floor area of 7,000 square metres. The swimming pools in the sports complex, including Hong Kong's first adjustable depth swimming pool, can allow 2,000 people to swim in them at the same time. Whenever international swimming contests are held or on other special occasions, staff members of the sports centre would raise or lower the floor board at the bottom of the Olympic-size swimming pool to the required depth just by pushing several control buttons.

Most visitors, however, would find the exhibition lounge for sculptures in the park the most interesting place to see. The sculptures displayed there were mainly made of bronzed and lacquered copper. Among the different exhibits are a number of sculptures showing the human face with solemn expression as if absorbed in some deep and serious thought. Among the other exhibits one can also find abstract items comprising irregular parts. The one which visitors would probably find most appealing would be the statue of Newton which quietly stands on one side. One can also find a tall cylindrical wooden sculpture nearby which was carved with a Red Indian totem pole. The exhibit was a gift to Hong Kong by a prime minister of Canada during a visit to the territory.

A Paradise for Gourmets

Turning from Nathan Road, one could reach side streets such as

With the passage of time, this former signal tower which once guarded the southern part of the Kowloon Peninsula has now turned into a tranquil rest area for casual visitors.



One of the most popular festive programmes for Hong Kong people during Christmas is to watch the holiday light decorations in Tsimshatsui East (by Chan Yat Nin).

The romantic setting on the Tsimshatsui promenade is, to many lovers, a catalyst to an unforgettable love affair.

The New World Centre, once the most fashionable top-grade shopping arcade in Hong Kong, is still impressive.

Cameron Road and Hanoi Road. Restaurants serving cuisines from around the world could be found lining these streets. Only by looking at the neon signs of names of restaurants could one tell that he has entered a gourmets' paradise. Visitors can try dishes from different places in China including Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai and Sichuan as well as other Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, Japan and more. Whatever one craves, chances are one could manage to find a restaurant that would satisfy his or her need.

The development of Tsimshatsui East has proceeded apace since the early 1980s. The luxurious hotels and shopping complexes in the area are as advanced and glamourous as any others in the city. Two of the most outstanding examples are the Regent Hotel overlooking Victoria Harbour and the New World Hotel and shopping arcade. The Science Museum and the Museum of Art which were completed in 1991 are also located in the area. The spectacular Christmas and New Year lighting displays put up outside these buildings which light up the shore line during the winter months have also become a major attraction to tourists and locals alike.

The Science Museum: "Hands-On" Exhibits

With alternating pink, purple and blue walls, the Science Museum on Granville Road in Tsimshatsui East appeared as if built with building blocks that young children like to play with. The one majo special feature of the museum is that visitors are encouraged t touch the exhibits or operate the scientific apparatus displayed Specifically designed methods and devices are used to stimulate the interest of visitors in science and technology. This open "hands-on' attitude adopted by the museum management puts the Hong Kong Science Museum one step ahead of many other similar museums i other countries.

Visitors are exposed to scientific phenomena even before they enter the exhibition halls of the museum. There is an echoing wall on the podium outside the museum. One has only to stand in the centre of a circle on the podium, speak facing the wall, and he would be able to experience the echoing effect similar to that of Tiantan, the Temple of Heaven, in Beijing. The special design of the water pond at the centre of the podium was also developed based on ancien Chinese astronomical instruments.

From outside the Cultural Centre one can see the spectacular skyline of Hong Kong Island (by Martin Hung).

The pinkish exterior wall of the Cultural Centre can be used as a screen to show slides or films on different artistic or cultural themes that would be visible even for audiences standing on the other side of the harbour (by Chan Yat Nin).

In the computer science section in the exhibition hall on the first floor, one can find a computer controlled robot moving around. Hanging from the ceiling of the exhibition hall is a real DC-3 propellor driven aeroplane and if visitors are interested they could go into a replica of a pilot cabin and simulate flying in that old aeroplane.

Cartoon Figures Mark Time

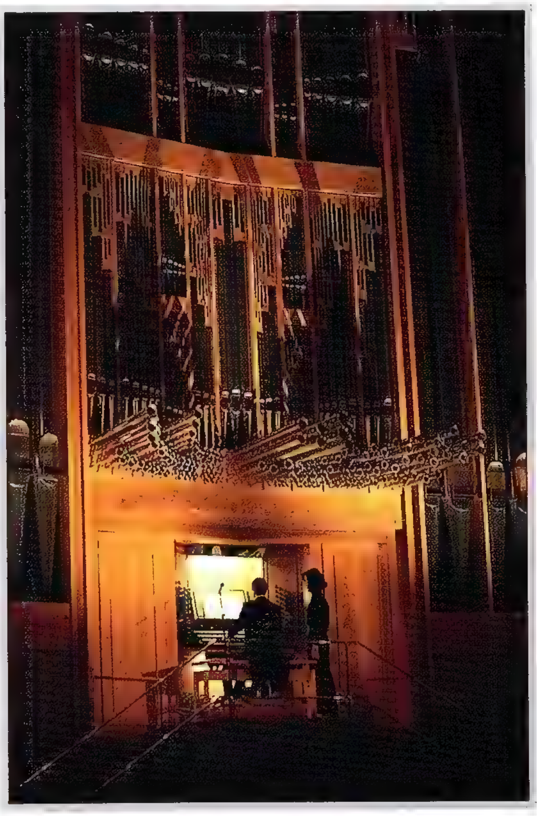
Walking southward along the shore line from the Science Museum, one soon comes to the New World Hotel and shopping centre. Hidden underneath the walls near the clock next to the bronze letters showing the name of the shopping centre are a number of cartoon figures that could tell time. Between 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday, when the long arm of the clock passes the number 12 marking the beginning of another hour, several stone slabs on the wall would slowly open revealing cartoon and fairy tale characters dancing and playing joyous melodies.

Fairyland on Earth

The Regent Hotel which stands against the shore line of Tsimshatsui East is probably the one hotel among the newly completed ones which could approach the quality and reputation of the Peninsula. The majority of the rooms in the hotel have windows that face Victoria Harbour. It is because of this fact that rooms of the hotel are always fully booked on the second day of the Lunar New Year on which a fireworks spectacle is staged in the sky above the harbour. It has become the ideal place for people who love to watch the spectacle, and yet want to avoid the crush of crowds on the street, to enjoy the magnificent display of colours and light in a relaxed fashion.

Most of the shopping and commercial centres, especially those facing the harbour would normally put up seasonal festive lightings on the external walls of the buildings during Christmas and New Year every year. Walking down the streets which are brilliantly illuminated by colourful neons can enhance the joyous atmosphere of the holidays. However, there is certainly more than one perspective for a person to enjoy the festival lights. A panoramic view of what seem to be buildings of lights displaying different festive themes is available to those who watch from across the harbour or on a ferry boat.

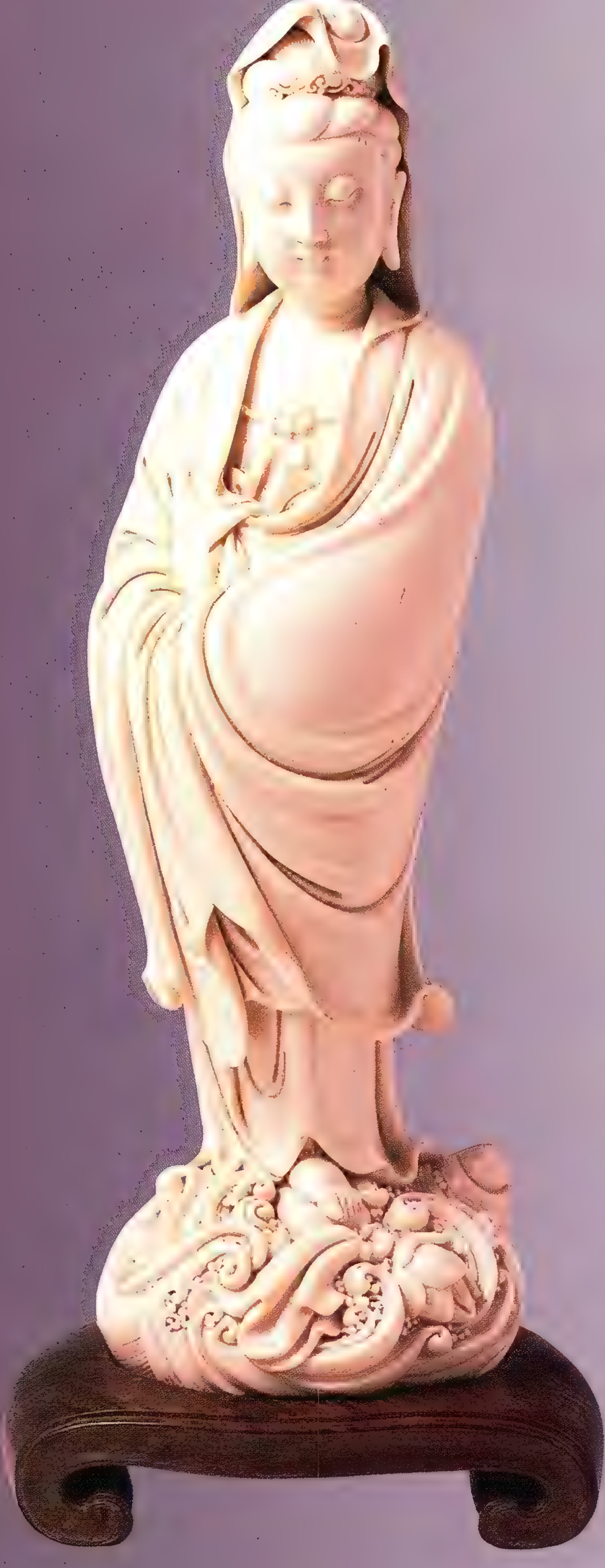
Translated by Ursula Yeung



The pipe organ in the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre is the biggest in all Southeast Asia.

He Chaozong and His Porcelain Goddess

PHOTOS & TEXT BY SHANGGUAN ZHONGHUA



Goddess of Mercy Crossing the Sea

This is a replica of a representative piece by He Chaozong. The porcelain goddess is 46 cm tall on a pedestal 14 cm wide. At the back of her head, her hair is tied into a bun pinned with an ornamental piece of *ruyi* and a shawl drapes down from her head. Her facial expression is one of kindness, serenity and dignity. She looks down slightly and her mouth, closed, goes in at the corners, suggesting a gentle smile. The exposed breast is embellished with bead pendants and the hands are tucked inside the sleeves in a gesture of making a bow. Her clothes seem tight with obvious creases, which are both highly decorative and true to life. One of her feet is seen standing on a lotus and the other is beneath a wave of water, implying that she is crossing the sea. The rich creamy glaze has the subtlest hint of pink, which enhances the fine quality of craftsmanship, particularly in the creases of the garments and the waves and lotuses.

The original statue was said to have been bestowed by Emperor Kangxi (reign dates 1662-1722) on Prime Minister Li Guangdi as an imperial gift. Li brought it to his hometown in Anxi, in southern Fujian.

Once you are in Dehua County in southern Fujian Province, you will invariably hear the name of He Chaozong, described as "the King of Porcelain" of the Ming Dynasty. The porcelain statues of a Bodhisattva, the Goddess of Mercy, Guanyin in Chinese or Avalokitesvara in Sanskrit, are his masterpieces.

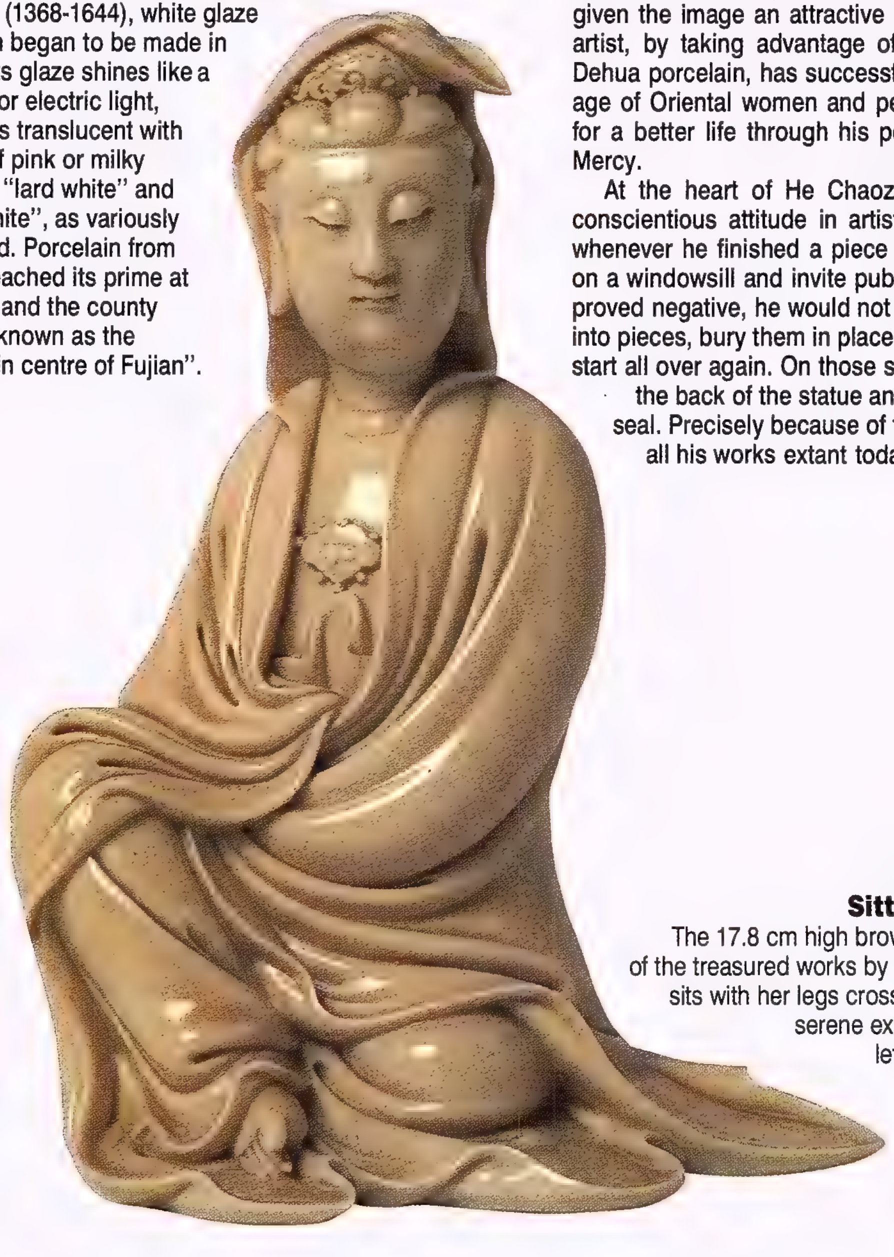
According to the book registering his family roots, He's ancestors were originally from neighbouring Jiangxi Province, who first served in the military and later were stationed in Housuo Village where they also engaged in farming, under official orders. One story that has been passed down says that in his early childhood, he went with his father to some of the flourishing monasteries where his father worked on Buddhist statues. Years of watching and learning produced gratifying results: he was very good at making statues that were made with wood wrapped in clay. Housuo had some porcelain kilns, thus, it is quite natural that he later took to the art of porcelain sculpture.

Porcelain kilns at Dehua, also known as Fu kilns, go back to over a thousand years. During the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) Dynasties, export porcelain products from Dehua were shipped from the Quanzhou Bay to Southeast Asia. During the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), white glaze porcelain began to be made in Dehua. Its glaze shines like a ustrous or electric light, t appears translucent with a tinge of pink or milky white, or "lard white" and "ivory white", as variously described. Porcelain from Dehua reached its prime at this time and the county became known as the "porcelain centre of Fujian".

He Chaozong at the time was a renowned master of the Goddess of Mercy sculpture and known as the founder of the "concealed hand" school in creating Avalokitesvara. Over a dozen different portrayals of the Goddess of Mercy he created, such as the goddess with eighteen hands, carrying a baby, with a fish basket, standing on a lotus, sitting on a lotus, riding a roaring beast, the Sudhana Goddess, the goddess at Mount Putuo and the one called Cintamanicakra were all intelligently executed so that the goddess' hands cannot be seen. This characteristic had aroused heated discussions. Some people contend this was an indication of He Chaozong's indignation at the oppression of Chinese women; others argue it was simply designed to avoid damage during transportation on the sea. In any event, it is commonly agreed that to have the hands of the goddess concealed makes the statues, as a form of art, look more like a complete piece. This paradox is because when people look at these porcelain statues, their attention will focus on the face and figure instead of the varied forms that the hands take. The dignified poses and soft, natural and graceful lines He Chaozong rendered to his statues of the Goddess of Mercy have confirmed the goddess as an object of worship and at the same time given the image an attractive secular quality. In fact, the artist, by taking advantage of the pure white colour of Dehua porcelain, has successfully created a beautiful image of Oriental women and personified people's longing for a better life through his portrayal of the Goddess of Mercy.

At the heart of He Chaozong's techniques was his conscientious attitude in artistic creation. It is said that whenever he finished a piece of work, he would place it on a windowsill and invite public criticism. If the opinions proved negative, he would not hesitate to smash the work into pieces, bury them in places only he himself knew and start all over again. On those successful works, he put on the back of the statue an impression of his personal seal. Precisely because of this devotion to excellence, all his works extant today crystallize the best of his creative career.

Translated by Huang Youyi



Sitting Goddess of Mercy

The 17.8 cm high brown-gray glazed statue is one of the treasured works by He Chaozong. The goddess sits with her legs crossed and has a charming and serene expression. The big toe on her left foot slightly tilts upward, in contrast to the other toes which immediately brings the entire statue to life.

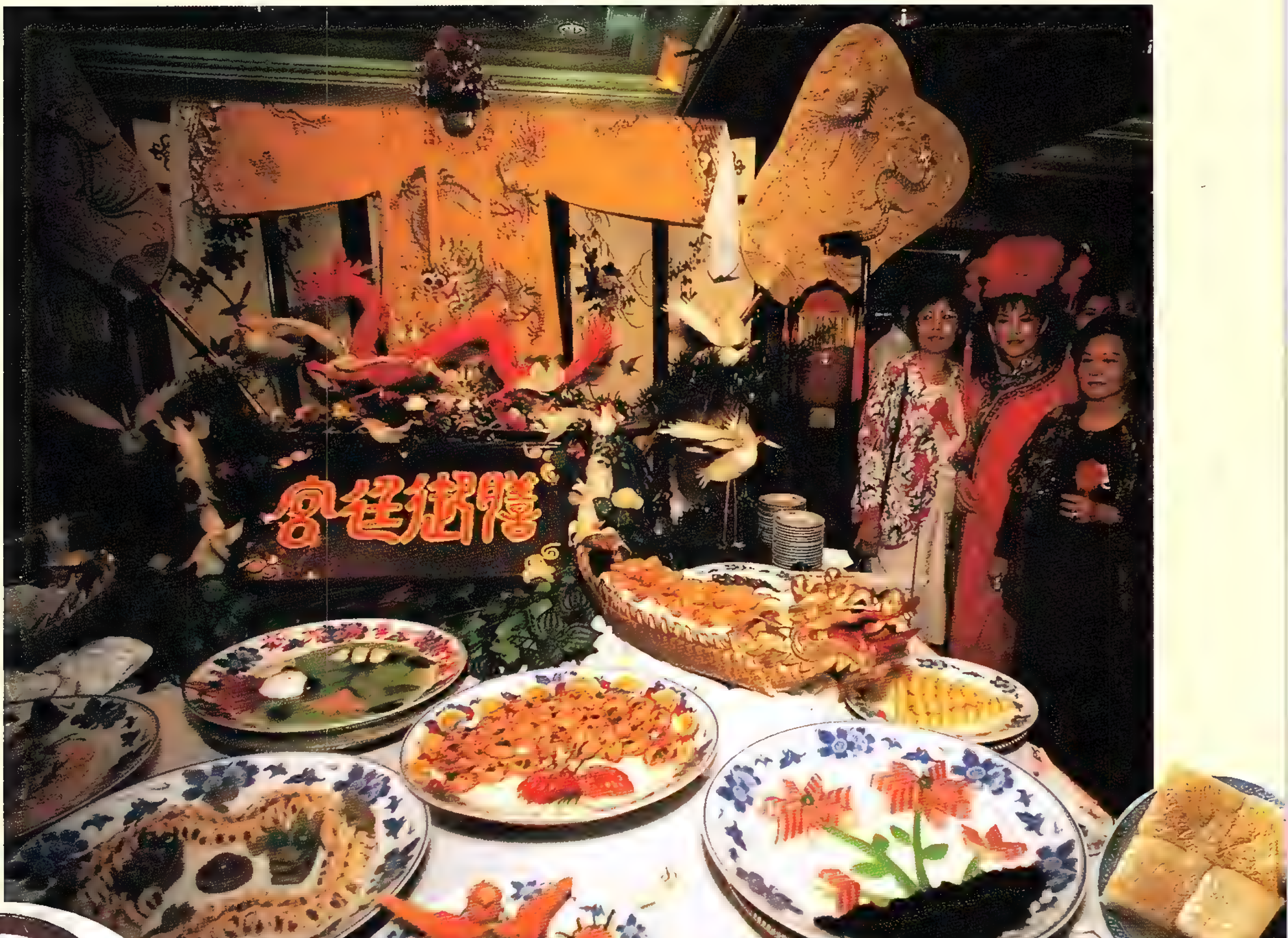
Sampling local delicacies in Fuzhou Food Street

肉麵 第一家
粽
猪
血
豆
芽

Chinese Gourmet Festival in Fuzhou

PHOTOS & TEXT BY MA YIU CHUN

At the opening ceremony of the festival in the Hot Spring Hotel imperial-style dishes are prepared.



A therapeutic dish – Drunk Shrimps cooked with Eight Treasures - tastes as good as it looks

Some local snacks of Fuzhou

Chinese cuisine has a history as long as Chinese civilization and is a part of the rich cultural legacy of that civilization. Chinese culinary delights are appreciated by the local people in China and foreigners alike. The range of flavours is unmatched, from the fiery chili dishes of Sichuan and Hunan cuisine to the sweet taste of Beijing duck, and everything in between.

Nowadays, there are eight main styles of cooking in China as defined by geography: Shandong, Sichuan, Guangdong, Huaiyang, Zhejiang, Fujian, Hunan and Anhui. In addition, the imperial-style dishes, vegetarian dishes and therapeutic dishes with traditional Chinese medicinal herbs are widely appreciated throughout China and around the world.

While travelling in China, it is quite difficult to enjoy all the delicious food of any single locality let alone the whole gamut of Chinese cuisine. But the Chinese Gourment Festival held in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, during May 1-8, 1992, as part of the Visit China '92 special tourist promotion, satisfied all the wishes of epicures coming from France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Canada, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as professionals from travel agencies, businessmen and reporters.

During the opening ceremony in the Hot Spring Hotel, different dishes of Fujian, Sichuan, Guangdong, Zheijiang and imperial styles were prepared for the participants. There was also a fashion show and the performances of Fujian folk songs and dances which I particularly enjoyed.

The following day, those taking part paid a visit to the Rongcheng Ancient Street and the Food Street in Fuzhou where local delights such as oyster cake, sweet dumpling made of glutinous rice flour, glutinous rice cake, peanut soup, muddy taro dessert and many more were tasted.

At night, the visitors gathered in the Fuzhou Lakeside Hotel and dined on a sumptous Xinjiang Mutton Banquet. The Uygur chefs prepared carefully the Roasted Whole Sheep, Xinjiang fried rice, horse milk tea, kebab and other exotic Xinjiang delights. The visitors were then invited to dance with the Xinjiang Song and Dance Troupe.

The next day, the guests embarked on a tour which visited the scenic spots in Fujian — Wuyi Mountains, Quanzhou and Xiamen. The festival finished on May 8. For all of those who missed the Chinese Gourment Festival, in September this year, there will be another food event, the Festival of Chinese Delicacies, this time in Xiamen. This event should be marked on the calendars of epicures all over the world!

The spectators are excited after seeing how Xinjiang Roasted Whole Sheep is carried out.

▲ The vigorous fluid movement and colourful costumes of the Xinjiang Song and Dance Troupe give pleasure to the spectators.

◄ Playing with the famous Quanzhou marionette

Congou and Dalei Teas are introduced to the visitors. For the latter, we pound the sesame, soybean and fresh ginger with a wooden pestle. The hot tea is made from this mixture.

Ming Min (fifth from left), Director of the Fujian Provincial Tourism Bureau and Harold Wu (forth from right), Chairman of the Tourist Industry Council of Hong Kong at the mutton banquet

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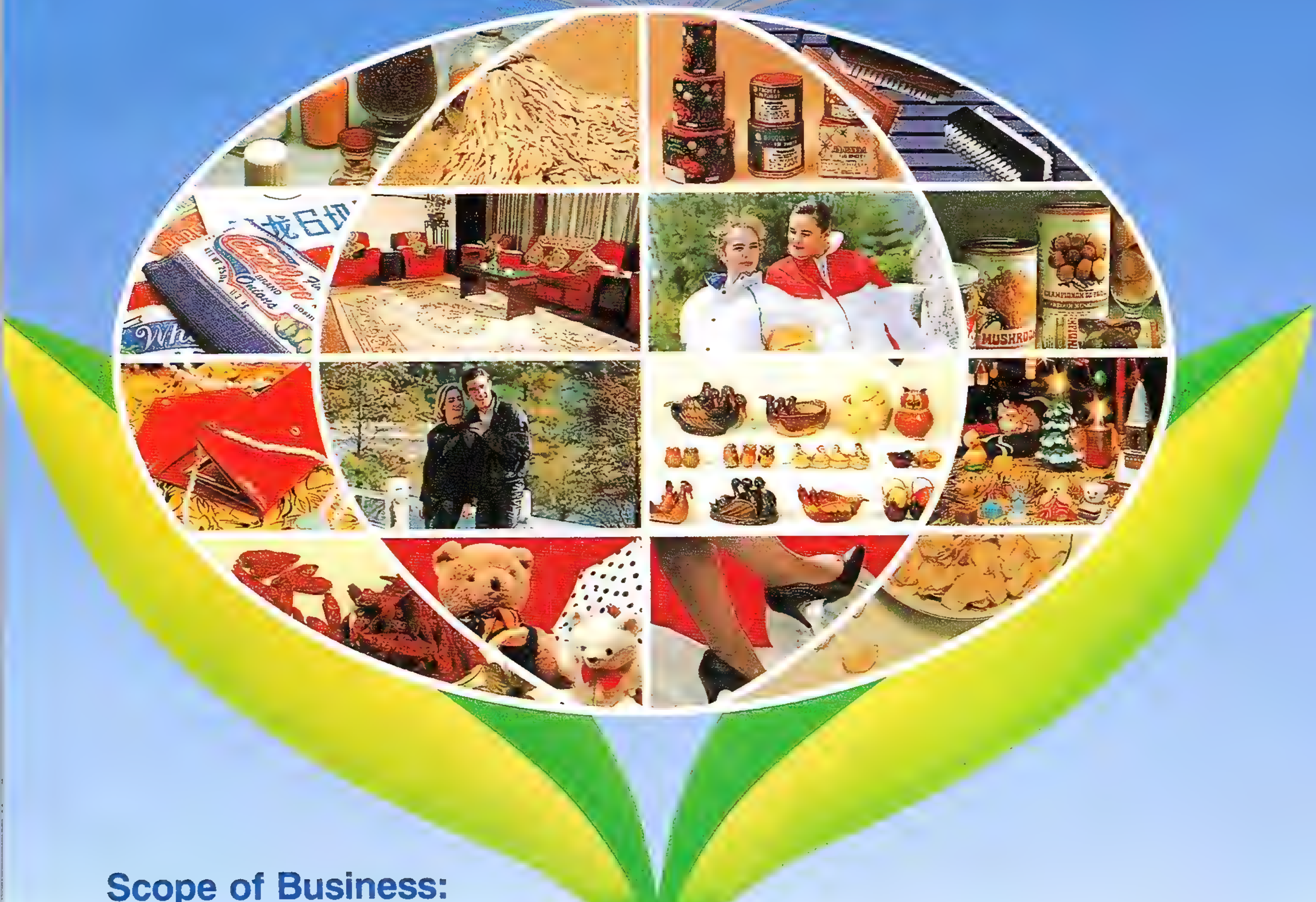

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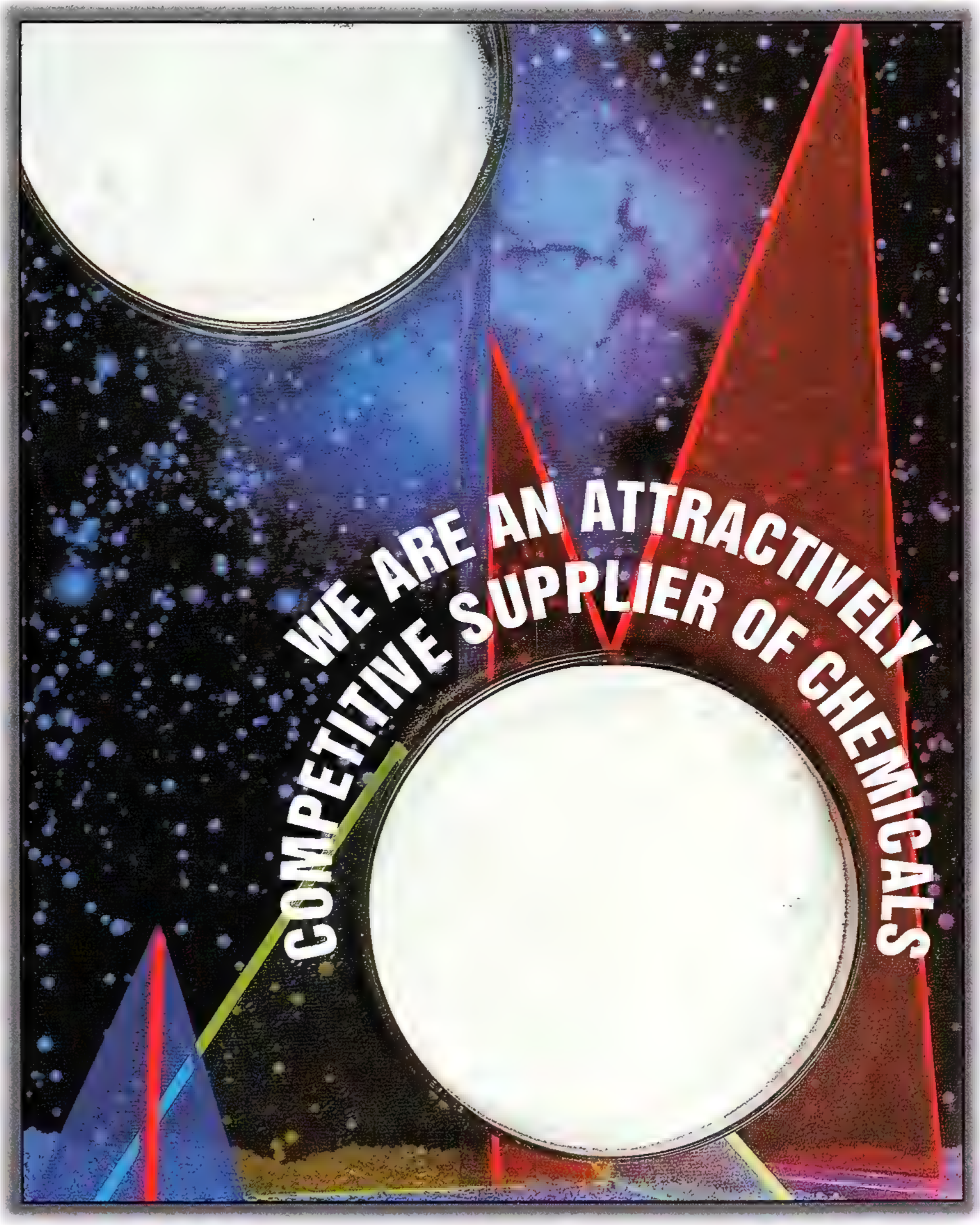

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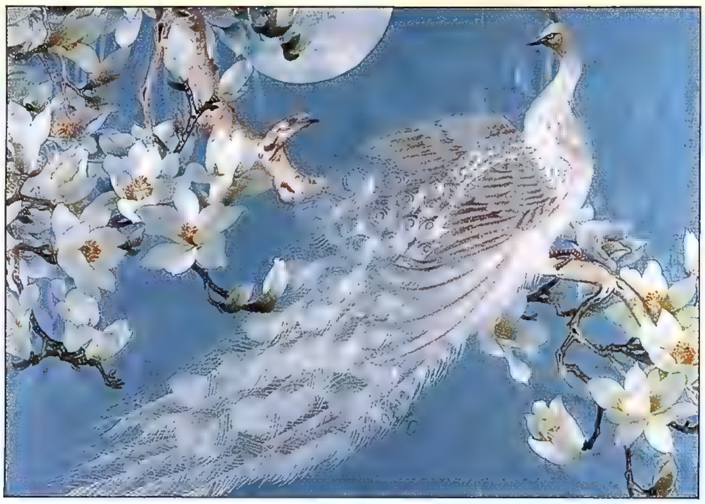
R Salt (2-Naphthol-3, 6-Disodium Disulfonate) 60% min., 25 kg iron drums

Hexamine (Urotropine) 99% min., 25 kg plastic woven bags.

Famous Exports



Hunan Embroidery – pretty as a picture (by Yan Haosheng)

Hunan Embroidery

Originating from locally produced embroidery, this craft has a history of more than 2,000 years, as well preserved samples of fine embroidery from the Mawangdai Western Han Tombs testify. In fact, embroideries from Hunan are considered to be one of the four principal types of embroidery made in China today, the other three coming from Sichuan, Suzhou and Guangzhou. At its best, Hunan embroidery is an exquisite artwork made with coloured silk threads embroidered on satin, based on sketches of traditional Chinese painting as well as auspicious symbols. The most popular themes are the lion and the tiger. This embroidery owes its outstanding reputation to the fact that some seventy methods of stitching are employed. The best variety is the double-faced embroidery featuring different pictures, which has been labelled as "the art of magic".

Agent: China Silk Import and Export Corporation, Hunan Branch
Address: 80 Gudaotian, East District, Changsha, Hunan 410002
Telephone: 429109, 420955 Fax: (0731) 445293

Porcelain

Porcelain manufacture in Hunan dates back at least to the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). Liling, in the eastern part of the province, represents one of China's eight famous sites of porcelain production. The five-coloured porcelain originating from this place features a unique artistry and enjoys popularity at home and a solid reputation abroad. There are a number of other varieties made, which have also been well received.

Tongguan, about thirty kilometres from the provincial capital of Changsha, is another major porcelain production site in southern China. The long history of ceramic production has been verified by a large amount of glazed ceramic articles unearthed, which suggest that porcelain first appeared in the Han Dynasty and had become a highly developed craft by the time of the Tang. Some 400 varieties are available here, the most outstanding of which are the White Jade, Sea Gull and Guo Guang trademarks.

Agent: Hunan Arts & Crafts Import and Export Corporation
Address: Wuyi Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001
Telephone: 445038, 443186 Fax: (0731) 447869

Lotus seed harvesting (by Gao Dayang)

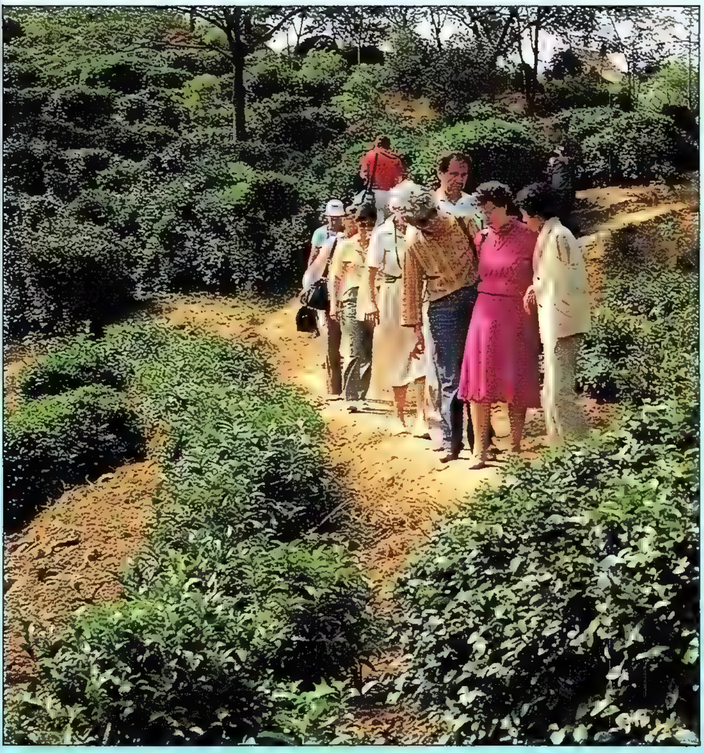
Lotus Seeds

Hunan abounds in lotus seeds, which were once presented as tribute to the imperial court. This specialty of Hunan has been nutritionally analyzed and found to consist of 62 per cent starch, 16.6 per cent protein, calcium, iron, phosphorous, Vitamins B1, B2 and C, and seventeen kinds of amino acid. According to Chinese traditional medical classics, the lotus seed from Hunan has the therapeutic effects of reducing blood pressure, invigorating the functions of the spleen and stomach, calming the nerves and moistening the lungs. The best variety is the Cunsan White Lotus Seed from Xiangtan.

Agent: Hunan Native Produce & Animal By-Products Import and
Export Corporation
Address: Wulipai, Changsha, Hunan 410001
Telephone: 447265 Fax: (0731) 446674

from Hunan

Hunan has an abundance of different bamboo products (by Li Sai Chue).


Silver Needle Tea Plantation at Mount Junshan (by Chen Xiuquan)

These samples of fireworks and firecrackers are the latest examples in a tradition dating back to the Tang Dynasty (by Li Sai Chue).

Fireworks and Firecrackers

Liuyang and Liling are known as the "land of fireworks and firecrackers in China". Perhaps starting production in Liuyang as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907), this industry was flourishing by the later years of the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Hunan has been exporting fireworks since 1875 and its sixty factories now boast some eleven categories with more than 1,000 varieties of pyrotechnic products. The most famous one is the "Red Lantern" brand of fireworks and firecrackers.

Agent: China Hunan Provincial Firecrackers & Fireworks Import
and Export Holdings Corporation
Address: 4 Wuyi Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001
Telephone: 447825 Fax: (0731) 444125

Bamboo Articles

Hunan is one of the regions in southern China which has an abundance of bamboo. Two major special bamboo products in this province are small bamboo ware from Yiyang and bamboo carving from Shaoyang. The former has a history of 600 years and the latter is an industry which started more than 200 years ago. The products from Yiyang mainly consist of objects often used in daily life, such as baskets and plates of all kinds. These articles are crafted by piercing pieces of bamboo together, tenoning the pieces and then inlaying them. The Shaoyang bamboo carvings use bamboo slices and padauk as materials which are first glued together before carving. The principal finished products of bamboo carving are generally decorative articles.

Agent: Hunan Arts & Crafts Import and Export Corporation
Address: Wuyi Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001
Telephone: 445038, 443186 Fax: (0731) 447896

Yinzhen Tea From Mount Junshan

Yinzhen (Silver Needle) tea, one of China's ten famous teas, is produced at Mount Junshan near Yueyang in Hunan. With a long history of production, this tea was once an object presented as royal tribute. The tea buds, straight, strong and even in length, resemble silver needles, hence the name. In the process of preparing this tea for drinking, the tea leaves can be observed to move up and down three times, providing some entertainment to the tea drinker. Fresh and mellow in taste, and having a lingering aftertaste, this product is in strong demand in comparison with other green teas.

Agent: China Native Produce & Animal By-Products Import and
Export Corporation, Hunan Tea Branch
Address: 2 Wuyi Road West, Changsha, Hunan 410005
Telephone: 27991 Fax: (0731) 446695

Many Hotels to Stay in Hunan

Hunan Province, simply called *Xiang* in Chinese, is situated just south of the middle reaches of the Yangtse River and most importantly to the south of the Dongting Lake. The name Hunan, in fact, means "south of the lake (Dongting)". Hunan has a subtropical climate, hot and humid summers and short, relatively cool winters. Its first and second largest cities, Changsha and Hengyang respectively, are the venues for a lot of historical and cultural monuments, some of which date back to the Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-221 B.C.). Other important cities in Hunan include Xiangtan, Zhuzhou, Shaoyang, and finally Yueyang.

In Hunan, hotels have been increasing in number and size to where there are now more than 40 big hotels ranging from one to three-star standard. These hotels are geographically distributed as follows: Changsha (8), Yueyang (3), Xiangtan (2), Chenzhou (2), Changde (3), Hengyang (4), Dayong (12), including five in Zhangjiajie, four in Suoxiyu, one in the Tianzi Mountains and one in city centre), Jishou (1), Wangcun in Yongshun (1), Yongzhou (2), Huaihua (2), Shaoyang (1) and Yiyang (2).

As part of its efforts to be more accommodating to tourists, Hunan Province has established the Hunan Tourist Hotel Association. Any inquiries and complaints can be directed to the association at Wulipai in Changsha by telephone at (0731) 444134. As you can see from the list below, you can be assured of finding a comfortable place to stay and relax no matter where you go in Hunan.

Major Hotels in Hunan Province

Changsha

Hua Tian Great Hotel
華天大酒店

16 East Jiefang Rd., Changsha, Hunan 41001
Tel: 442888 Telex: 982021 HTDJD CN
Fax: 0731-442270
GM: Zhu Fang Di
Opened 8 May 1988
288 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$48, deluxe US$68, suite US$188-388
Located in the city centre, 28 min from the airport, 5 min from the railway station
Taxi fare to the railway station/airport: FEC ¥40/100
Facilities: 18 Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, discotheque, music hall, billiard room, indoor swimming pool, sauna, shopping arcade, beauty salon, business centre, 14 meeting rooms, massage

Lotus Hotel
芙蓉賓館

Photo by Li Sai Chue

9 East Wuyi Rd., Changsha, Hunan 410001
Tel: 401888 Telex: 445175
GM: Xiao Zhengxiong
275 rooms and suites
Located in the heart of the city
Facilities: Coffee shop, shopping arcade, bar, beauty salon, massage, laundry, 11 Chinese and Western restaurants, 300-seat banquet hall

Qingyuan Hotel (No.1 Building)
青園賓館(1棟)
2 Qingyuan Rd., Changsha, Hunan 410004
Tel: 34816 Fax: 442579
GM: Li Yingchang
Facilities: Meeting rooms, restaurant with Hunan dishes

Rongyuan Hotel
蓉園賓館
1 Furong Rd., Changsha, Hunan 410011
Tel: 267194 Fax: 443668
GM: Zhang Deqiu
Facilities: Conference rooms, restaurants offering Western and Chinese dishes

Xiangjiang Hotel
湘江賓館

2 Zhongshan Rd., Changsha, Hunan 410005
Tel: 446888, 408888 Telex: 98131 XIANG CN
Fax: 0731-448285
GM: Fei Xiangyao
Opened July 1988
300 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$22-35, suite US$50-80, deluxe suite US$270
Located in the heart of the city, 40 min from the airport, 5 min to the railway station
Facilities: 14 restaurants offering Hunan and Western dishes, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, discotheque, beauty salon, massage

Zhuzhou

Qingyun Hotel
慶雲賓館

1 Chezhan Rd, Zhuzhou, Hunan 412008
Tel: 24851, 22951 Telex: 995011 QYCZH CN
Fax: 0733-25336
GM: Xie Yixi
Opened 25 December 1987
300 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$25-35, suite US$48-70
Located opposite the railway station, 70 km from the airport
Facilities: 4 restaurants (800 seats), coffee shop, beauty salon, business centre, karaoke, gym

Changde

Taolin Hotel

桃林賓館
East Jianshe Rd., Changde, Hunan 415000
Tel: 226930
GM: Zeng Guo'an
Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan and Guangdong cuisines

Zhiyuan Hotel

芷園賓館
East Renmin Rd., Changde, Hunan 415000
Tel: 224315
GM: Zhao Yi
Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan dishes

Dayong

Pipaxi Hotel

琵琶溪賓館

Zhangjiajie, Dayong, Hunan 416680
Tel: 712255, 712393 Fax: (07483) 713325
GM: Wan Zhanrong
Opened January 1990
194 rooms and suites
Located in the area of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, 30 km from the city, 35 km from the railway station
Facilities: Six restaurants and banquet halls, 7 meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, clinic, massage, beauty salon, bar, billiard room

Tuofeng Hotel

駝峰山莊
Suoxiyu, Dayong, Hunan 415811
Tel: 618025
GM: Kang Defeng
Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan dishes

Wulingyuan Hotel

武陵源賓館
Suoxiyu, Dayong, Hunan 415811
Tel: 618130
GM: Liu Jinwu

Xiangdian Mountain Villa

湘電山莊
Zhangjiajie, Dayong, Hunan 416680
Tel: 712266
GM: Li Chaodong
Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan dishes

Hengyang

Hengyang Hotel

衡陽賓館
54 Xianfeng Rd., Hengyang, Hunan 421001
Tel: 26921

Huiyan Hotel

回雁賓館
26 Guangdong Rd., Hengyang, Hunan 421002

Nanyue Hotel

南嶽賓館
Mojingtai, Nanyue, Hengyang, Hunan 421100

Yancheng Guest House

雁城賓館
Jiefang Rd., Hengyang, Hunan 421001
Tel: 26921
GM: Zhu Yuxiao
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants

Cili

Cili Hotel

慈利賓館
Chenguanzhen, Cili, Dayong, Hunan 415800
Tel: 23233
Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Chenzhou

Sports Guest House

體育賓館
12 West Renmin Rd., Chenzhou, Hunan 423000
Tel: 224163
GM: He Ribin
Facilities: Gym, restaurants offering Guangdong and Hunan dishes

Suxian Hotel

蘇仙賓館
Suxian Rd., Chenzhou, Hunan 423000
Tel: 225483
GM: Zhang Xu
Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Shaoyang

Baigongcheng Hotel

白公城賓館
Chengbei Rd., Shaoyang, Hunan 422600
Tel: 223412
GM: Shan Peifang
Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Huaihua

Huaiyuan Hotel

懷園賓館
Yingfeng Rd., Huaihua, Hunan 418000
Tel: 23404
GM: Xiao Lanying

Yueyang

Yueyang Hotel

岳陽賓館
26 North Dongting Rd., Yueyang, Hunan 414000
Tel: 223011 Telex: 994008 YALTD CN
Fax: 225235
GM: Liu Da Ao
Opened 6 June 1986
265 rooms Rates: Standard US$16, suite US$80
Located in the centre of the city, 120 km from the airport, 3 km from the railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, discotheque, shopping arcade, billiard room, banquet hall

Yueyang International Building

岳陽國際大廈

Nanhu Avenue, Yueyang, Hunan
Tel: 24811 Telex: 994015 ZBYCS CN
278 rooms and suites
Facilities: Shopping arcade

Yunmeng Hotel

雲夢賓館
25 Chengdong Rd., Yueyang, Hunan 414000
Tel: 224498
GM: Liu Hong'an

Xiangtan

Shaoshan Guest House

韶山賓館
Shaoshan, Xiangtan, Hunan 411301

Yongzhou

Xiaoxiang Hotel

瀟湘賓館
Yuejin Rd., Yongzhou, Hunan 424500
Tel: 23059
GM: Chen Aimin
Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Yueyang Highlights and Special Tours

Yueyang City is in northeastern Hunan Province, where the Dongting Lake and the Yangtse River are closest together on the lake's northeastern shore. In former times it was called by different names — Baling and Yuezhou. It derived its present name from its location in Yuanyang, Tianyue Mountain. An ancient city with a long history, it is dotted with many historic sights and old ruins. The chief spots of interest in the city itself are found in the Dongting Lake district, while many of the scenic areas are in places along the Miluo River.

Yueyang Tower

Rising above the city is Yueyang Tower atop the western city gate by the lake and opposite Mount Junshan. It is one of the three famous ancient towers south of the Yangtse River, the other two being Tengwang Tower in Nanchang, Jiangxi, and Yellow Crane Tower in Wuchang, Hubei. The Yueyang Tower was first built in 49 during the Eastern Han Dynasty. It was first called Baqiudi Tower, and was later used by General Lu Su of the State of Wu during the Three Kingdoms period to review his naval forces trained in the Dongting Lake. In 716, it was expanded into a huge tower known as Nanlou. Later it was renamed Yueyang Tower, visited by famous Tang-poets Li Bai, Du Fu and Bai Juyi. The tower was restored several times. It was rebuilt once more in 1867 during the Qing Dynasty and underwent major repairs in 1984, with its reconstructed features and architectural art preserved in entirety. The major architecture is a three-storey wooden structure containing four columns 19 metres high with upturned eaves. The upturned eaves and rooftop are made of yellow glazed terracotta tiles, having dragon and phoenix designs as well as relief decorations of various sorts. The *dougong* or bracket set supporting eaves from columns and the corridor columns are vermilion, making the colour coordination all the more majestic. The ground floor is full of Chinese scrolls written by famous calligraphers, past and present. One calligraphy contains the *Notes on Yueyang Tower* by Fan Zhongyan and *Ascending Yueyang Tower* by Du Fu, both copied by Qing Dynasty calligraphers.

The Yueyang Tower rises dramatically above its front gate (by Chen Xiuquan).

The Twin Concubines Tomb lies east of Mount Junshan (by Ma Yiu Chun).

Madam Ci Pagoda

This pagoda towers above the lakeside in South Dongting Street, opposite the Yueyang Tower which stands in the north. The pagoda was first built between 713 and 741 during the Tang Dynasty. Legend tells us that the Dongting Lake used to be swept by a roaring wind in the old days due to the presence of monsters and devils. A pagoda had to be built with funds donated by people to stave off evil forces. Work got underway and was nearing completion, when funds were exhausted and construction was stopped. A widow named Ci contributed her entire family fortune allowing the pagoda to be completed. For this reason the structure was called Madam Ci Pagoda.

Thirty-nine metres high, the pagoda occupies 64 square metres. Five layers of gneiss stone are its base. The pagoda itself is built with grey bricks. It is a seven-storey, octagonal and solid structure. Four niches can be found in each storey from the second storey onward, in which are placed Buddhist statues. The pagoda is one of the most ancient architectures in Hunan Province still extant today.

Mount Junshan

Originally known as Mount Xiangshan became a renowned resort as the "dwellin cave of celestials". Its third name is Mou Dongting. Legend describes it as the plac where Erhuang and Nüying, two concubin of Emperor Shun, died as a result of gri after a sustained and vain search for the em peror, who failed to return from his royal i spection tour to South China. The spots o the island's famous mottled bamboo a supposed to be the tracks of the concubine tears. The ladies were worshipped as th Goddesses of River Xiang. "Junshan mea Mount Lord", *jun* being the Chinese wor for lord. Actually Mount Junshan is an islet i the Dongting Lake 15 kilometres southwe of Yueyang city district. Yueyang Tower fac the islet. Mount Junshan is round in shap consisting of a highland perimeter with low-lying basin, totalling one square kil metre in area. It enjoys top priority on th itinerary of tourists. Mount Junshan abounc in ancient relics, each unique in itself, suc as the Erfei (Twin Concubines) Tomb, Liu Well, Chuanshu Pavilion, Langyin Pavilio Jiuxiang Pavilion, Longxian Well, and Feil Bell.

Twin Concubines Tomb Also called Xian fei Tomb, it lies east of Mount Junshan. Th bodies of the two above-mentioned co cubines of Emperor Shun are believed t have been buried here. Details about th construction of the tomb are rather sketch The tomb. as it stands today had bee restored in 1881. There are many ston tablets with carved inscriptions standing o both sides of the tomb, containing poem and verses in praise of the two concubine devotion to the emperor as well as of th beauty of Mount Junshan.

Langyin Pavilion The hilltop on the left o Longkou in Mount Junshan is believed to b the spot where Lü Dongbin, one of the Eigh Taoist Immortals, used to drink and sing po etry during his lifetime. When inebriated, h slept here.

Construction of this pavilion, whic marks the spot, began in the Song Dynast (960-1279) and went through repairs in th long period of time elapsed since then. I 1981 the pavilion was rebuilt and what is be lieved to have been the original architectur was restored. From the pavilion one can ge a good view of the Dongting Lake, whos blue water seems to form one single entit with the blue sky above.

Jiuxiang Pavilion The pavilion is atop th Jiuxiang Peak in Mount Junshan. A yello flower called Jiuxiang (Wine Aroma) grow here. When a person drinks the wine mad from this flower he attains longevity and be come a celestial being according to legend

Dnce Emperor Wudi of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24) was reported to iave succeeded in obtaining the drink from Aount Junshan. The bottle of wine was, iowever, secretly intercepted and imbibed oy his official, Dongfang Shuo. The emperor, leprived of his immortality, got angry and rdered that Dongfang Shuo be executed or this crime. Dongfang Shuo appealed to he emperor, arguing that if the wine was eally an elixir that would supposedly make eople impervious to death then he could iot be killed. Dongfang concluded that if he iad died as a result of the execution, the mperor, too, would not escape death anyvay. On hearing this appeal, Emperor Wudi ranted amnesty to Dongfang Shuo. News of his soon reached Mount Junshan and the iuxiang Pavilion thus came to be built to ommemorate the event.

Nanhu or the South Lake

This lake was formerly known as Yonghu. is also called Nanzi Lake due to its loation in a corner of the Dongting Lake on ne outskirts south of Yueyang City. The vater surface of the lake measures 1,200 hectares. The lake is about 60 kilometres in circumference. Its shore abounds in bends and curves and the lake has many islands. Hills rise along its banks. Mount Ganshan or Longshan on the south bank stretches itself over a distance of four kilometres like a dragon that swims in the lake, with head rising above the waters. There are nine islets standing in one row, each shaped differently. The topography resembles, if one has an active imagination, a dragon chasing after nine turtles. On the northern bank there are three peninsulas which extend to the middle of the lake. In 1982 the South Lake became a conservation zone which seeks to protect the beauty of its natural scenery. It is now a park with many tourist routes in and around it. Pleasure boats are available for hire, allowing one to enjoy the lake even more.

Special Tours in the Yueyang Area

Apart from the aforementioned scenic attractions special tours are now available.

Dragon Boat Races Tour: On the fifth and fifteenth days of the fifth lunar month (usually in June) tourists can watch the Dragon Boat Races, held each year in the Miluo River, where the custom supposedly originated. Measuring 253.2 kilometres in length, the waters of the lower reaches of the Miluo River flow slowly and steadily. This is ideal for boat-racing and it is particularly enjoyable to hold races in the section between the Nanjiangli and Chutang. The dragon boats are beautifully carved and are rowed by teams of men and women in uniform.

Lotus Gathering Tour: Located about 15 kilometres from Yueyang City, the Tuanhu Lake which stretches 2.34 square kilometres is planted with lotus that blooms in colourful splendour for 40-50 days from July to September. Two species of lotus are found here sporting white and red blossoms, with white predominating. The flowers are like umbrellas and give forth great fragrance. The lotus seeds are rounded and plump. Tourists can ride in lotus-shaped boats, which are pointed or upturned at both bow and stern. Rowing the small boats among the lotus in the lake is great fun. You will enjoy the blooming flowers and have the chance to gather fresh seeds to taste excellent lotus flavour. You can also fish among the lotus. The lotus cooked with crystal sugar is delicious to eat and available all along the banks of the lake.

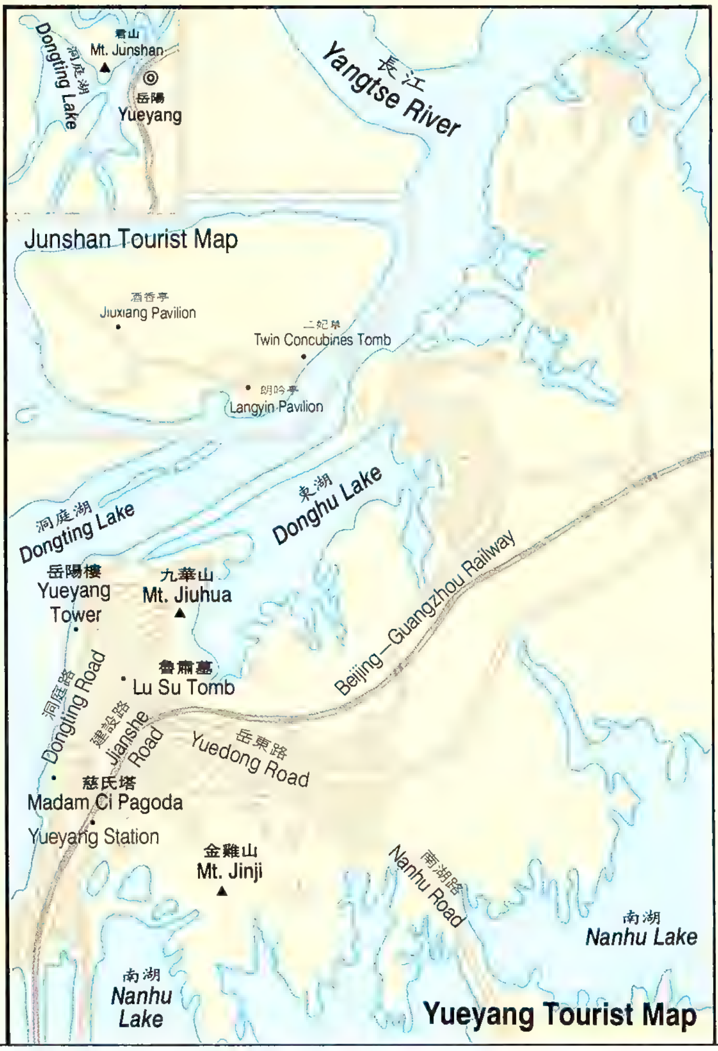
Fishing Tour: Fishermen live along the banks of the lake in Yueyang. Tourists can visit the homes of fishermen to see how fishermen live, or may join the fishermen as they mend or dry nets in the sun. Visitors are even welcome to go on a fishing expedition with the fishermen to learn about the livelihood of fishing folks.

Aquatic Sports Tour: Water sports in Bajiao Lake, thirteen kilometres from Yueyang City, forms another area of recreation. There are canoeing, surfing and boat-racing facilities. The lake is a centre where Hunan sportsmen train, as Bajiao, with 250 hectares of water surface, is ideal for their practice. The water is clear, and, being surrounded by hills full of verdure, the lake is a natural aquatic park. Canoes, racing boats, motor boats and special tour boats can be hired. Surfing, dragon boat races and fishing trips are held while safety measures and first aid are provided at the base area.

If readers of CHINA TOURISM are interested in going to Yueyang, they should contact **China Intenational Travel Service, Yueyang Sub-Branch; Yueyang China Travel Service** and **Yueyang Overseas Chinese Travel Service**

Address: 25 Chengdong Road Tel: 22482

Translated by He Fei



Antique Style Streets in China Feature Traditional Shopping

While travelling in China, if you wish to have some idea of the way the ordinary urban citizens lived or what the capital cities, the palace gardens or the business centres looked like in ancient China, you should make some excursions into the past by visiting some of the streets built in the antique style there.

Songdu Imperial Street at Kaifeng in Henan

With a history of more than 2,700 years, the city of Kaifeng served as the capital of seven dynasties in ancient China. While it was the capital of the Northern Song Dynasty, it was named Dongjing. After the reign of nine emperors in succession for a period of 168 years, the population increased to over one million and its area also greatly expanded. As a result, Dongjing's importance exceeded Chang'an (present-day Xi'an in Shaanxi) and Luoyang as one of the most prosperous cities of the world at that time. The famous Chinese painting by Zhang Zeduan entitled *Riverside Scene at the Qingming Festival* is a faithful panoramic portrayal of the prosperous situation in Dongjing during this period of time.

The city of Dongjing during the Northern Song Dynasty not only covered a large area but was also strongly fortified. The roads and streets in the city were laid out in a very orderly way. With four thoroughfares as the main routes, there were a great number of smaller streets crisscrossing throughout the whole city. The most important road, which started from Xuande Gate of the Imperial Palace and stretched southward all the way through Zhuque Gate of the inner city onto Nanxun Gate of the outer city, was called the Imperial Street.

The newly-built Songdu Imperial Street is located on the original site, with a total length of more than 400 metres. It starts from Xinjiekou in the southern part of the city, where there towers a big arch gate inscribed with four Chinese characters: Song Du Yu Jie (Imperial Street in the Capital of the Song Dynasty) and ends at Wuchao Gate, which connects it with Longting (Dragon Pavilion), the biggest scenic spot of Kaifeng. In the middle of the street, there are two 6-metre-wide lotus ponds surrounded by peach trees, plum trees and willow trees. The sidewalks on the two sides of the street are paved with bluish bricks and along the sidewalks there are more than 50 shops, restaurants and hotels which are all built in the style typical of the Song Dynasty. They not only use the names used in the Song Dynasty, but also offer food and specialties characteristic of that time. Most of the shops here are two-storey or three-storey structures built with blue bricks and grey tiles in a simple but classically graceful way.

The design of the buildings in this street conforms to the principle of "taller in the north but lower in the south". The most important buildings in this street are a pair of corner towers and the Fan Mansions. The two corner towers were initially erected as part of the city wall. Now they have been moved to the two sides of the arched gate at the southern end of the street where they can manifest the ancient nature of the city in a more prominent way. The original Fan Mansions used to be one of the main buildings on the street and also the biggest of the 72 restaurants in Dongjing during the Northern Song Dynasty. The newly-built Fan Mansions is closely similar to its predecessor both in design and in structure. It consists of five three-storey buildings, which stand respectively in the east, the west, the north, the south and the middle, with those on the east-west axis forming the major part of the mansions. On the third floor of the East Building, there are three rooms decorated and arranged in the same way as the study, the musical room and the bedroom once used by Li Shishi, the best-known courtesan in the Song Dynasty. There are also a wax tableau of Li Shishi and her maids there. The West Building is the biggest of the five and can seat 500 people for dining. Here you can enjoy almost everything you can mention in the style of the Song Dynasty — the costume, the food, the music, the utensils and so on. On the third floor there is displayed the throne once used by Emperor Huizong. If you like, you can take a seat on it so as to sample what it feels like to be an emperor. Here you can also have a ride on a Song Dynasty-style wedding sedan. Accompanied by music provided by a band of trumpeters, you will gain an appreciation of the Song Dynasty wedding ceremony.

The Old Street at Tunxi in Anhui Province

Tunxi, an ancient town in southern Anhui Province, used to be one of the areas where the ancient Anhui culture flourished. One and a half kilometres long, this Old Street is the best preserved shopping centre in the style of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) now existing in China. It is paved with more than 2,000 long narrow brownish stones and is believed to be patterned on the streets in Lin'an (present-day Hangzhou), capital of the Southern Song Dynasty. The towering walls topped by horse-head gables, the whitewashed walls, the blue-tiled roofs, the wood-and-brick structured shops, the ingeniously built pavilions and wooden storied-houses, exquisitely carved decorative designs, the well-preserved wooden doors, the halls, the courtyards and the long and narrow lanes and alleys between houses — all these combine to form an aesthetically pleasing view with a nostalgic charm. The whole street is a vivid reflection of the Anhui architectural style characterized by antique simplicity and elegance.

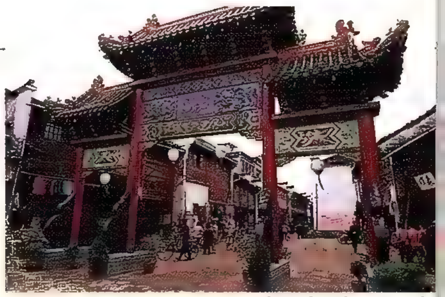


Photo by Chan Yat Nin

About a hundred steps down to the west of the Old Street, there is a 100-metre-long pedestrian shopping area which also maintains the antique style. Standing at the entrance of the thoroughfare, you can find a vista formed by all sorts of colourful signs and streamers flying from the balconies or eaves of the wineshops and signboards with archaic Chinese characters hung above the shop doors. Along both sides there are arrayed various specialty shops, such as the Mingxiang Tea Shop, the Wanchang Garment Shop, the Maoshan Bean-Curd Shop, the Kaiqing Inn, the Ruan Xiao'er Wineshop, the Decheng Mountain Product Shop and the Dalianzhu Cigarette Shop. If you take a stroll along the street, you will feel as if you were transported in time to a busy shopping centre of hundreds of years ago.

Mindu Old Street at Fuzhou in Fujian Province

Paved with small cubic stones, the Mindu Old Street is located in the Commerce City at Wuyi Square in the central area of Fuzhou. Built in the style of the streets in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), this old street concentrates 36 trades represented by 72 businesses in the old times into a space of 700 square metres on the 4th floor of No. 1 Building in the Commerce City. When you enter the arch-shaped gate, the first thing that catches your eye is a bulletin published by the Municipal Trading Bureau of the

Ming Dynasty to admonish merchants and civilians to obey the law and observe discipline. Near the entrance of the street, there is an upright stone tablet inscribed with an order: "Officials, civil or military, must dismount from the horse here." This sight makes you immediately feel as if you had really come to the entrance of a busy and bustling street in ancient times.

If you need to put up for the night here, you can go to Gaosheng Hotel; if you want to try a ride on a rickshaw, you can rent one from the Jiaoguan Rickshaw Rental; if you are interested in songs and tunes in Fujian local style, you could go to Guangju Theatre, where you can enjoy them performed on a small stage for only a few yuan. There is also a wineshop named Yaxuange, which sells Old Liquor and Qinghong Wine, both specialties of Fujian. In the Ankang Shop of Traditional Chinese Medicine, you can find an old doctor in traditional attire seated at the desk ready to receive his patients. Available for rent at this complex are bridal sedan chairs, phoenix coronets, official robes, emperor's dragon robes and even a whole band of trumpeters who would provide appropriate musical accompaniment to a ceremony.

Photo by Ma Yiu Chun

Ningrong Street at Zhengding in Hebei Province

Whoever has read the renowned Chinese classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* is surely familiar with the name of this street. Ningrong Street is located in Zhengding County, Hebei Province and together with Ningguo Mansion it has now become a well-known tourist spot. Running westward past Ningguo Mansion and through a crossroad, its west terminus intersects another street perpendicularly. At Ningrong Street there crosses a side alley called Xiaohuazhi (a small spray of flowers). In this alley there is a small house with a *ruyi* gate, wherein, according to the novel, Jia Lian, a dandy character in the novel, kept his mistress, Second Sister You.

Photo by Peng Zhenge

Designed in the style of the streets around the end of the Ming Dynasty and the beginning of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Ningrong Street is paved with long narrow rocks with an open drain on each side. Over the drains there are some long rock slabs or brick boards to provide easy access to the shops along the street. There are altogether more than 30 shops in this street, including perfume and spice shops, silk shops, tea shops and pawnshops as well as some inns, hotels and restaurants. Each of the shops has its distinct feature according to the nature of the business it operates. Some of them are simple and some are quite elaborate. Some are single-bay and some have two or three bays, with no one bearing any resemblance to another. Decked by streamers and signboards in various colours and styles, the whole street is pervaded with a quaint atmosphere of the streets in ancient China. At the same time it has also successfully recreated the prosperous atmosphere of Ningrong Street as described in the novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*.

The Royal Street at the Summer Palace in Beijing

After a thorough renovation, Suzhou Street, a commercial street in the Summer Palace in Beijing, was opened to visitors from home and abroad in last September.

Suzhou Street is also known as Maimai (Buying and Selling) Street. After being neglected for about 130 years, it began to revive last autumn. Lined with shops close to each other and decked by a great number of memorial arches, this street was built in the imperial gardens by Emperor Qianlong as a shopping street, an attempt to imitate the lively activities of Suzhou's canals. Lying in the middle section of the Rear Lake in the Summer Palace, it once included over 60 shops, two temples and two royal palaces which were particularly built as a retreat for the royal family and from where they could take a leisurely stroll to the street. In front of the street there is an expanse of green water of the lake and behind it there is a hill slope planted with ancient pines. Thus, the scene here would constantly change with the passing of the seasons.

Up on the hill behind it there is a complex of temples constructed in Tibetan style. In the history of China there has always been a tradition to "build markets where there is a temple". However, a combination like this, a combination of Tibetan temples characteristic of the architectural style of the southwestern plateau and a market in a garden-like style south of the Yangtse River, which are all concentrated in an area of less than 10,000 squre metres, is indeed a very rare combination in the history of Chinese architecture.

All the shops in Suzhou Street have an antique flavour. For example, to indicate the nature of its business, a bank has strings of copper coins hung at its premises while the stationery shop would hang an array of large writing brushes. Enhancing the traditional atmosphere are a number of specialty shops. The Yigu Zhai is a gallery specializing in collecting Chinese paintings and calligraphic works. The Zhunyuan Hao and Weiyi Hao are photo studios taking photoes in ancient Chinese costumes or official robes. The Ganglu Ju and Pinquan Zhai are two tea shops that sell famous Chinese teas, such as Longjing tea and Maojian tea. The Jiayin Xuan is a theatre offering performances in Suzhou story-telling. Apart from all these establishments there are also cigarette shops, perfume shops, wineshops and jewelry shops.

Photo by Wang Wenbo

Perhaps the most delightful thing you can enjoy here, however is to go boating. At your service there are a number of small light boats which can take you through the Rear Lake to enter a 700-metre-long "Corridor on Water". Along this winding water route there is a very low stone embankment. You can easily jump onto the embankment from a boat and then you need only to cross a narrow path to step into one of the shops running in a line parallel to the embankment.

Translated by Nie Zhenxiong

The Natural Character of Dongting Lake

Close to the southern bank of the Yangtse River in northern Hunan Province is Dongting Lake, the second largest freshwater lake in China. Consisting of the subdivisions of East Dongting, South Dongting, West Dongting and the Datong Lakes, the Dongting Lake covers an area of 2,740 square kilometres.

On average the lake water is 34.5 metres above sea level and is 30.8 metres at its deepest point. In the south and west, the lake is fed by four rivers, namely, the Xiangjiang, Zishui, Yuanjiang and Lishui, while in the north about forty per cent of the Yangtse's water also flows into the lake via canals. All the water that accumulates in the lake eventually goes into the Yangtse River at Chenglingji close to the city of Yueyang. During the flood season every summer, water level at the upper reaches of the Yangtse rises tremendously, but the middle reaches known as the Jingjiang is narrow and full of twists and turns. Whenever the Yangtse flood tide from the upper reaches fails to wash its way through the middle reaches, it spills into the Dongting Lake at Songzi, Taiping and Ouchi on the southern bank of the Jingjiang. When this happens, the lake functions as a natural reservoir, taking much of the pressure of potential flooding off the Yangtse's reaches. For this reason, the size of the lake also varies.

In bygone history, Dongting Lake was part of the famous Yunmeng Lake. According to historical records, before the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) an even larger lake spread across the area west from today's Wuhan all the way to the border between Hubei and Hunan Provinces. Reaching Wuhan in the east, Jiangling in the west, Yiyang in the south and Tianmen in the north, the lake covered about 40,000 square kilometres. Before the 8th century B.C., lakes of varied sizes between Wuhan and Jiangling were still linked with each other forming a vast expanse of water surface. Gradually, silt brought over by the Yangtse, Xiangjiang, Zishui, Yuanjiang and Lishui River kept accumulating in the lake, making the Yunmeng Lake shallower and smaller. Much of the great lake became land, cutting the lake into a number of smaller ones. Eventually the name Yunmeng disappeared together with the once large lake and left behind smaller lakes in its wake with different names. And among these lakes, the Dongting Lake and the Honghu Lake in neighbouring Hubei Province are the best known.

Three Golden Tortoises of Mount Junshan (by Sun Zhihe)

Having originated from the gigantic Yunmeng Lake, Dongting Lake, for a long time in history, was China's largest lake. Written records indicate that the lake was still as large as 6,270 square kilometres in 1825 and 5,580 square kilometres in 1915. From the 1950s onward, the lake has experienced considerable shrinking by an average of 70 square kilometres each year. During one particular year, the size of the lake was reduced by 250 square kilometres. Today, the lake has already ceded its position as the largest freshwater lake to Poyang Lake in northern Jiangxi Province.

The Dongting Lake is known for its graceful and impressive scenery as well as its expanse. On its east shore stands the red-walled and yellow glaze-tiled Yueyang Tower whose four corners on all three stories supports flying eaves. Scaling the top of it, one is rewarded with a panoramic view of Dongting Lake's vast expanse. When there is wind, waves surge in the lake, presenting a scene like an ocean. Near the tower, sturdy trees grow on the shore.

An oblong-shaped island, Junshan, stands above lake water like a green emerald inlaid in the lake. Some 15 kilometres away from the city of Yueyang, the island can be reached by motorboat in little more than half an hour during the high water season. During the dry season, however, the island is joined to the bank by a shallow waterway, part of the bed of which rises above water, showing mud here and there, making the trip to the island very difficult. The 0.94-square-kilometre Junshan Island is made up by 72 small hills, none higher than 200 metres above sea level. On the pebble beach in the southwest part of the island rises a huge crag shaped by ages of beating by the waves. The north end of the island features pure white sand beaches. Even hills on this part of the island are created by white sand and they look like squat white stupas. These sand hills are formed by sand carried over and piled up by strong winds.

One of the famous Yueyang dishes, Tongzi *fish, is made by steaming the Dongting Lake Carp and the lotus seeds in a bamboo cylinder (by Sun Zhihe).*

The Junshan Island is one beauty spot of the Dongting Lake and the lush variety of flora on the island can be compared to a botanical garden. Here aged trees shoot into the sky, camellia grow in thick clusters and wild medicinal herbs are abundant. Many of the plant species have been introduced from all over the country. With different plants blossoming throughout the four seasons, the island indeed resembles a beautiful garden.

Not surprisingly, the lake is rich in aquatic products. Tourists visiting here can enjoy a wide range of different fish. As one of China's major freshwater fish producers, the Dongting Lake yields more than 100 kinds of fish and over 40 kinds of shellfish, mostly found in South Dongting. Pearls cultivated here are high in yield and high valued and are a highly desired tourist item.

In the lake district, the weather is mild and agreeable and precipitation is adequate. The soil around the lake is thick, highly permeable of water and rich in organic elements. These qualities render the soil extremely fertile, making the area known as the granary of Hunan Province. During summer and autumn, fishing boats are busy with their catches in the lake while towards the shore, against the background of watery green leaves, lotus flowers are in full bloom and emanate an almost intoxicating fragrance. Together with tree-lined roads and rows of houses, all of these elements combine to create a view of local flavour and beauty unique to the Dongting Lake.

Translated by Huang Youyi

Train Schedules
Beijing—Zhengzhou—Wuchang—Changsha—Guangzhou

315 O.	257 F.T.	247 F.T.	243 F.T.	145/148 F.T.	57 Exp.	47 Exp.	15 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train No. Station	2 Exp.	16 Exp.	48 Exp.	58 Exp.	147/146 F.T.	244 F.T.	248 F.T.	258 F.T.	316 O.
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				13:30		22:47	01:56	11:11	**Shijiazhuang**	16:17	02:44	06:56		00:26				
				16:43		01:44	—	14:09	**Anyang**	13:13	—	03:43		21:11				
	21:00		16:30	19:26		04:18	06:59	16:52	**Zhengzhou**	10:35	21:39	01:24		18:33	12:33		08:14	
	02:05		21:06	00:11		08:11	10:52	20:45	**Xinyang**	06:31	17:35	21:21		13:46	08:09		03:16	
	05:39		00:50	03:38		11:30	—	00:02	**Hankou**	03:09	—	17:59		10:03	04:27		23:24	
	06:25	09:34	01:24	04:12		12:04	14:26	00:36	**Wuchang**	02:32	13:51	17:22		09:25	03:49	08:10	22:46	
09:05	10:14	13:38	05:10	07:43		15:19	17:37	04:01	**Yueyang**	23:23	10:42	14:13		05:56	00:08	04:24	19:05	16:48
10:13	11:23	14:40	06:13	08:43		—	—	—	**Miluo**	—	—	—		04:50	22:50	03:16	17:47	15:51
11:34	12:35	16:01	07:32	10:02	18:00	17:32	19:46	06:00	**Changsha**	21:10	08:38	12:05	09:05	03:42	21:36	02:07	16:36	14:40
12:42		17:08	08:42	11:21	19:14	18:37	—		**Zhuzhou**		—	10:58	08:04	02:38	20:29	00:59		
15:04		19:23	10:48	To Nanchang	21:24	20:43	22:40		**Hengyang**		05:42	08:51	06:00	From Nanchang	18:07	22:44		
		01:18	16:43		03:05	02:05	04:02		**Shaoguan**		00:24	03:31	00:48		12:14	16:51		
		05:10	20:59		07:00	05:30	07:25		**Guangzhou**		20:52	23:58	21:45		08:05	12:58		
					To Shenzhen								From Shenzhen					

Exp. — Express F.T. — Fast through passenger train O. — Ordinary passenger train

Flights to and from Changsha

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Changsha	2	15:10	17:20	CZ3122
	4	09:25	11:40	WH2133
	1 6	16:00	18:10	CA1343
	3 7	12:55	15:10	CZ3124
Changsha — Beijing	2	11:55	14:05	CZ3121
	4	12:35	14:50	WH2134
	1 6	19:20	21:30	CA1344
	3 7	09:50	12:00	CZ3123
Chengdu — Changsha	1 5	13:30	15:05	SZ4317
Changsha — Chengdu	1 5	15:55	17:35	SZ4318
Fuzhou — Changsha	1 6	10:10	12:30	CZ3588
Changsha — Fuzhou	1 6	07:30	09:40	CZ3587
Guangzhou — Changsha	1 4	14:20	15:20	CZ3329
	2 4	15:00	16:40	CZ3376
	2 5	17:10	18:50	CZ3374
	2 7	14:00	16:05	CZ3368
	3 7	08:00	09:00	CZ3325
	4 6	14:15	16:25	CZ3366
Changsha — Guangzhou	1 4	20:30	21:30	CZ3330
	2 4	07:30	09:10	CZ3375
	2 5	07:20	09:00	CZ3373
	2 7	11:15	13:20	CZ3367
	3 7	16:00	17:00	CZ3326
	4 6	11:40	13:40	CZ3365
Haikou — Changsha	7	12:05	13:45	WH2386
	3 6	14:50	16:40	CJ6308
Changsha — Haikou	7	09:25	11:15	WH2385
	3 6	12:10	14:00	CJ6307
Harbin — Changsha	1	07:20	11:00	CJ6463
Changsha — Harbin	1	17:05	20:35	CJ6464
Kunming — Changsha	1	14:30	16:15	CJ6464
	2	12:55	14:40	CJ6426
	7	14:50	16:35	CJ6406
Changsha — Kunming	1	11:50	13:40	CJ6463
	2	10:15	12:05	CJ6425
	7	12:10	14:00	CJ6405
Shanghai — Changsha	1 3 4 6	16:05	17:40	MU5301
Changsha — Shanghai	1 3 4 6	18:30	19:50	MU5302
Shenyang — Changsha	7	07:50	11:20	CJ6405
	3 6	08:05	11:20	CJ6307
Changsha — Shenyang	7	17:25	20:35	CJ6406
	3 6	17:30	20:25	CJ6308
Shenzhen — Changsha	4 6	16:05	17:15	XO9304
Changsha — Shenzhen	4 6	14:05	15:15	XO9303
Xi'an — Changsha	7	06:55	08:35	WH2385
Changsha — Xi'an	7	14:35	16:15	WH2386
Hong Kong — Changsha (charter)	1 4	18:10	19:20	CZ338
Changsha — Hong Kong (charter)	1 4	16:00	17:10	CZ337

(Valid Summer — Autumn 1992)

Train Schedules
Changsha—Zhuzhou—Shaoyang

Shao 1 O.	505 O.	Train No. Station	506 O.	Shao 2 O.
07:20	10:13	**Changsha**	22:09	19:15
08:35	12:10	**Zhuzhou**	19:42	18:03
09:28	13:12	**Xiangtan**	18:32	17:02
10:40	—	**Shaoshan**	—	15:40
	14:32	**Xiangxiang**	17:28	
	17:11	**Loudi**	15:02	
	20:27	**Shaoyang**	11:47	

Hunan's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Anren C	安仁縣
Anxiang C	安鄉縣
Changde	常德市
Changsha	長沙市
Chenxian C	郴縣
Chenzhou	郴州市
Dayong	大庸市
Dong'an C	東安縣
Fenghuang C	鳳凰縣
Guidong C	桂東縣
Guiyang C	桂陽縣
Hanshou C	漢壽縣
Hengyang	衡陽市
Jianghua Yao AC	江華瑤族 自治縣
Jinshi	津市市
Jishou	吉首市
Lengshuijiang	冷水江市
Lengshuitan	冷水灘市
Lianyuan	漣源市
Linli C	臨澧縣
Lixian C	澧縣
Loudi	婁底市
Nanxian C	南縣
Qiyang C	祁陽縣
Rucheng C	汝城縣
Sangzhi C	桑植縣
Shaoyang	邵陽市
Taojiang C	桃江縣
Taoyuan C	桃源縣
Xiangtan	湘潭市
Xinhuang Dong AC	新晃侗族 自治縣
Xupu C	溆浦縣
Yiyang	益陽市
Yizhang C	宜章縣
Yongshun C	永順縣
Yongxing C	永興縣
Yongzhou	永州市
Yuanjiang	沅江市
Yuanling C	沅陵縣
Yueyang	岳陽市
Zhijiang Dong AC	芷江侗族 自治縣
Zhuzhou	株洲市
Zixing	資興市

Note:
C: County
AC: Autonomms County

NEWS

Flight News

Dragonair is introducing a non-smoking service on four new destinations from Hong Kong: Beijing, Dalian, Tianjin and Phuket. Thirteen Dragonair routes to the Mainland from Hong Kong are now non-smoking.

The new airport at Changchun, capital of Jilin Province in northeast China has been given the green light by the authorities. Jilin is an important industrial city and in addition has numerous tourist sites. The city is to establish air links with Russia, Japan and Hong Kong.

Photography Contests

The Natural Tourism Administration and the China Civil Aviation Administration are jointly organizing a grand photography contest for the presently-running "Visit China '92" tourism year. Open to foreign visitors, it bears the title "China Through My Eyes".

The Capital Hotel and Chinese Literature of Hong Kong, Taiwan and Overseas (Sihai) Press are jointly organizing a photography contest titled "Beijing in My Eyes", open to Chinese and foreign contestants alike until November 30. The subject of the contest is Beijing. Send your photos (slides and negatives not accepted) with titles and your name and address to Comprehensive Department, Capital Hotel, 3 Dongdajie, Qianmen 100006, Beijing, PRC. (Tel: 5129988, Ext. 3150)

Miniature Park in Fujian

The Fujian authorities have decided to build a park featuring miniature replicas of the temples of Mazu on Meizhou Island with the aim of promoting cultural exchanges between Taiwan and the Mainland. There are 1,500 Mazu temples worldwide, 800 of which are in Taiwan. The park will be situated southeast of Mount Zumiao and will cover an area of 13.3 hectares.

Hunting Ground in Xinjiang

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is planning to open three hunting grounds for foreign hunting enthusiasts. Situated in the cities of Altay, Aksu and Hami, they will have such animals as argali (a kind of sheep), snow leopards, red deer and bears.

Hotel News

The **Xinghu Hotel** at Zhaoqing opposite Seven Star Crags in Guangdong Province has just opened and will be officially inaugurated in June. The four-star, 31-storey hotel has 400 rooms of all grades completely equipped with modern facilities. The 29th floor houses a revolving restaurant with a seating capacity for 280 diners. For reservations, contact Kee Kwan Travel (H.K.) Co. Tel: 7300788.

The **Sheraton Hua Ting Hotel Shanghai** is offering a special "businessmen's package" effective until November 30, 1992. The tariff is US$ 85 per night and includes complimentary American breakfast, newspaper, laundry service and shuttle service between the airport and hotel.

The **China Resources Hotel** has recently opened in Beijing. Completely equipped with modern facilities, it is offering a special 50 per cent rebate to celebrate its opening: US$30 per night. The hotel is located just a ten-mintue drive away from the city centre at 35 Jian Guo Road, Chao Yang District, Beijing. Reservations: Tel: (1) 5012233.

The **Holiday Inn Hotel** in Guangzhou is offering a special weekend package "Guangzhou Weekend Breakaway" at a tariff of HK$ 350 (+15 per cent) per night during the weekend effective until December 31,1992 (except for the period October 14 to 29). Tel: 7366855.

Beijing Silk Fair

The Beijing Silk Fair is presently being held at the 90-year-old Yuan Long Silk Store in the Chinese capital. Some 2,000 kinds of silk products will be on display there and also for sale. The fair will run until September 30.

Grand Travel Fair in Hong Kong

China Travel Service (CTS) is to stage a grand China travel fair at Hong Kong's Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 20 to 23 for travel agents and tourism industry professionals. Those attending will be able to meet Chinese hotel industry personnel, airline personnel and staff from 120 Chinese travel agencies. The best offerings of China will be presented at the fair. CTS owns 216 travel agencies, 109 tourist hotels, 29 car companies and more than 60 tourist and duty-free shops in China, while abroad it has 13 overseas branches in a number of countries. In recent years, CTS has handled some 1.1 million travellers annually on average.

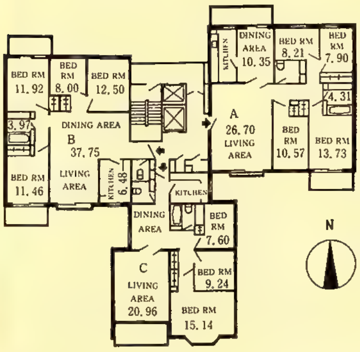
Natural Echo Chamber

A natural echo chamber has been found in the village of Zhangshiyan in Zanhuang County, southern Hebei Province. The site in the Taihang Mountains is a natural formation with a narrow entrance leading into a large open cavity ninety metres in diameter; the inside wall is one hundred metres high. Anyone speaking at any point inside will hear a distant echo. Experts believe this feature was formed during the Yanshan orogenic movement some 100 million years ago. It is expected to prove a tourist draw as well as to aid in the study of geology, geography and acoustics.

Special Interest Tours

The National Tourism Administration of China has drawn up plans for 14 special interest tours for 1992. These are: The Great Wall Tour, The Yellow River Tour, The Yangtse River Three Gorges Tour, Beautiful Rivers and Mountains Tour, Silk Road Tour, Southwest Ethnic Customs Tour, Ice and Snowscape Tour, Homage Tour, Youth Study Tour, Honeymoon Tour, Health Tour, Gourmet Tour, The Yangtse Delta Pleasure Boat Tour and the Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour.

For further information, travel agencies and other organizations may contact any China Travel Service office.



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BED RM
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12.50
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DINING AREA
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37.75
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BED RM
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KITCHEN
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DINING AREA
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LIVING AREA
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BED RM
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N

The first property development enterprise for foreigners in Beijing

The first property development enterprise for foreigners in Beijing. Beijing North Star Real Estate Corporation.

The corporation now offers the Overseas Chinese Apartments and Beijing Hui Yuan Apartments located in the XI Asian Games Athlete Village for sale.

- * Beautiful environment and convenient location: The apartments are just 9 km from Tian An Men Square, 20 km from the capital's airport and have such facilities as shopping centre, restaurant, parking lot, bank, recreational palace and office building.
- * Residential and Business Apartments.
- * Health centre, beauty salon, Karaoke and indoor all-weather swimming pool are also available.
- * Round-the-clock hot water and security service are offered.
- * Ownership can be inherited, transferred, rented and mortgaged.
- * The Trust and Consultant Corporation of the China Bank and Hongkong Commercial Bank can offer mortgage loans up to 70% of the total house value and on repayment terms of up to ten years.

Basic Price: US$156,000 per suite.

Floor Area: From 125 square meters (3 bedrooms and 2 living rooms) to 203 square meters (4 bedrooms and 2 living rooms). Various types of flat are available.

Overseas Chinese Apartments

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BNSIG

Beijing North Star Real
Estate Corporation

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EXT
SSUE

SOUTHWESTERN CHINA

In our next issue, CHINA TOURISM celebrates its twelfth anniversary with stories featuring southwestern China in both Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. We actually whisk you across the boundary to visit Burma, Laos and Vietnam on special cross-border tours which are now available to travellers. For those with an interest in sports, we take you to a sports meet of China's many minority nationalities.

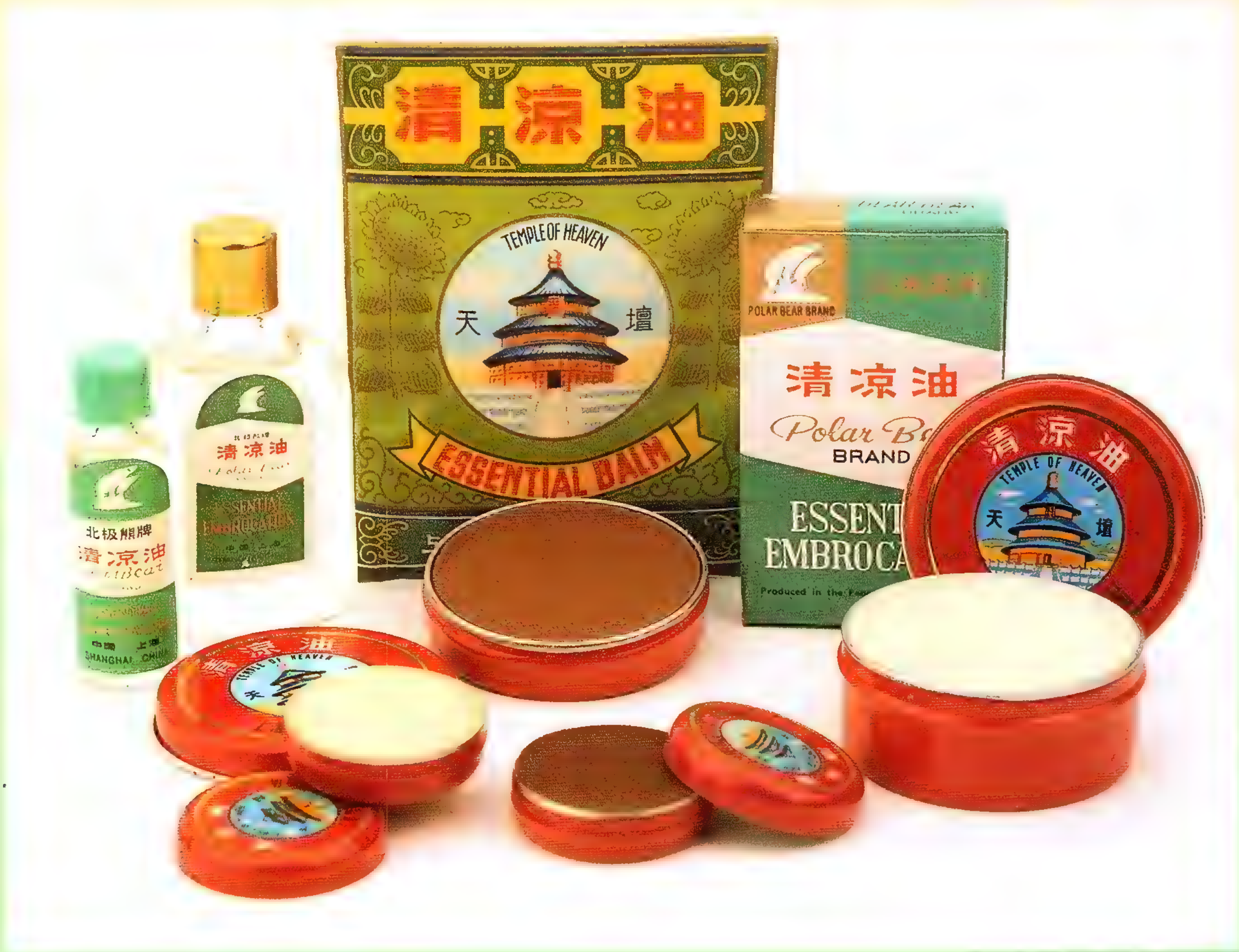
- **Leisurely Life in Dali**

- **The Fourth All-China Minority Nationalities Athletic Meet**

- **Along Today's Sino-Vietnamese Border**

- **Cross-Border One-Day Tours Along Chinese Boundary in Yunnan**

Temple of Heaven Brand Essential Balm & Polar Bear Essential Embrocation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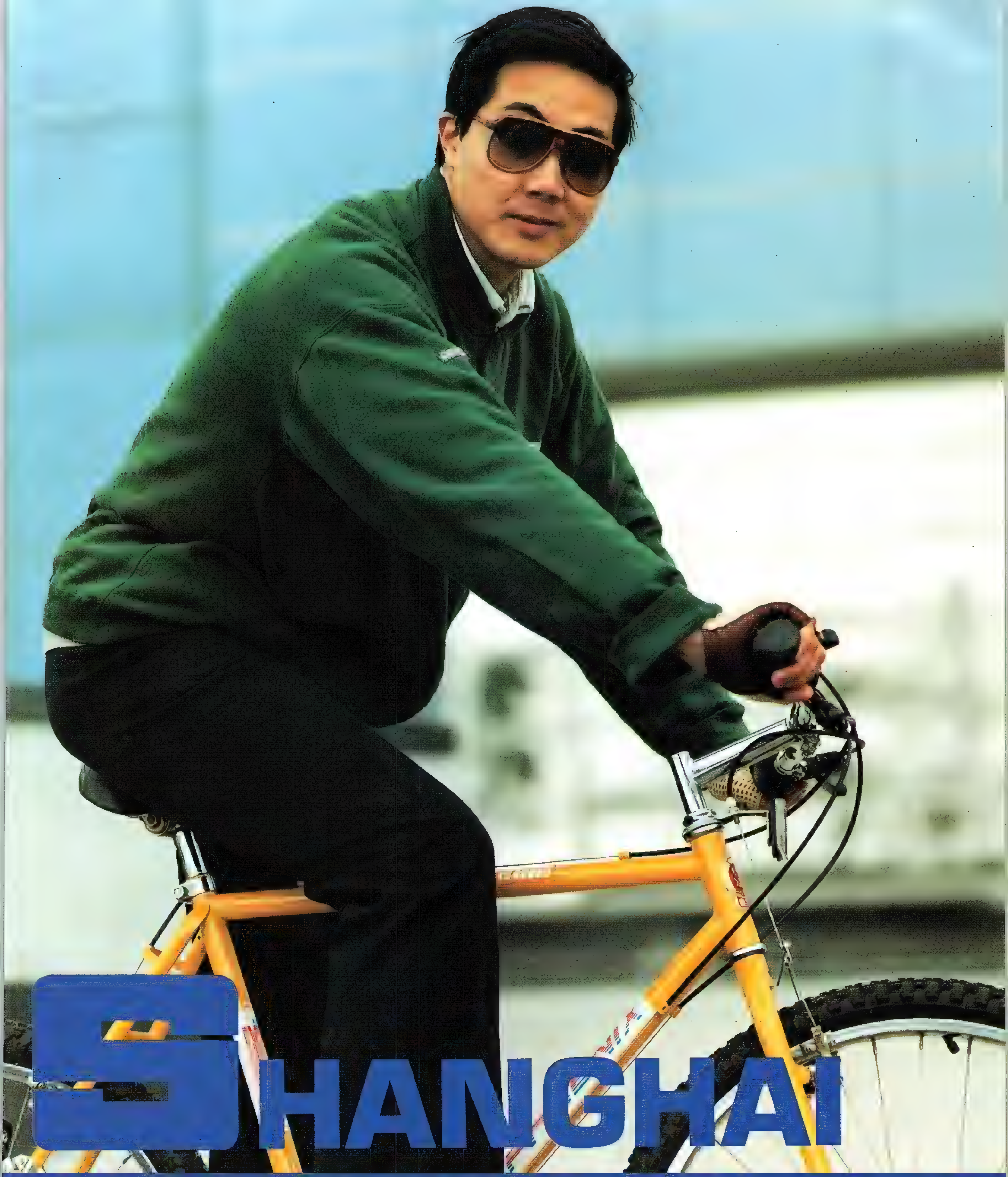

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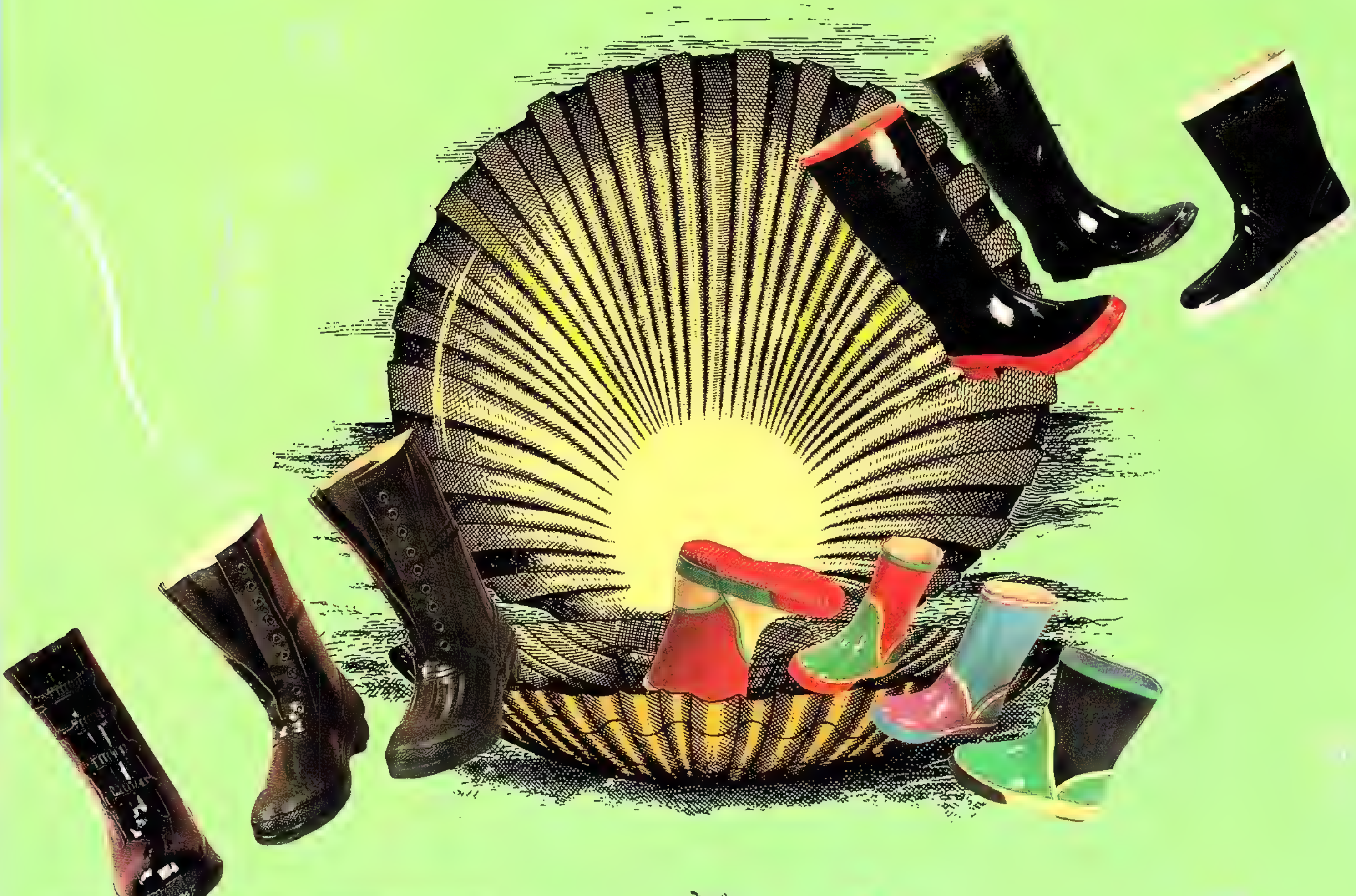

ART NO.	SPECIFICATION	PACKING (PAIR)	G.W (KGS)	N.W (KGS)	MST (CM)
3802 HIP WADER	38-34	6	23	21	66×49×22
3801 CHEST WADER	38-48	6	28	26	68×49×26
IP05 RUBBER BOOTS	22-26	10	9	8	41×21×36
	27-30	10	10	9	43×24×42
	31-35	10	11	10	48×27×49
IP04 RUBBER BOOTS	22-26	10	9	8	41×21×36
	27-30	10	10	9	43×24×42
	31-35	10	11	10	48×27×49
IP02	22-26	10	9	8	41×21×36
	27-30	10	10	9	43×24×42
	31-35	10	11	10	48×27×49
3401-1 3401-2 LABOUR PROTECTIVE BOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58×32×31
3402 OVERBOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58×32×31
IP10 RUBBER BOOTS	26-33	12	12	11	48×23×48
	34-38	12	13	12	49×25×57
	39-42	12	14	13	52×29×58
	43-46	12	15	14	56×33×59
3901 INDUSTRIAL BOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58×32×31

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No 144

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Which articles in this issue did you find the most interesting?
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SHENZHEN

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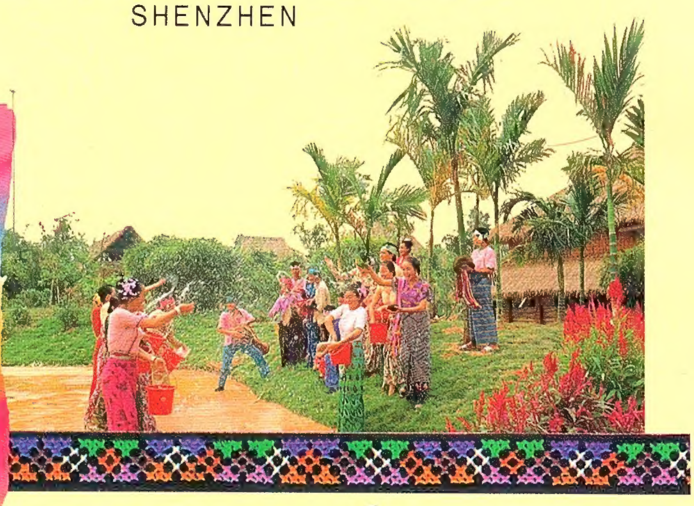

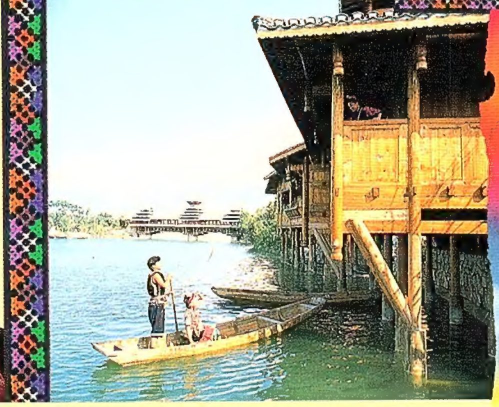

- * China Folk Culture Villages consisting of the world's largest number of minority nationalities
- * The world's largest man-made stone forest, banyan, waterfall, cave and the largest laser folk music fountain in the world
- * Appreciating all kinds of folk customs and local conditions
- * Enjoying primitive, graceful song and dance
- * Having a taste of unique flavour of local snacks and delicacies
- * A grand ''Folk Arts Parade'' held each day
- * Folk festive celebrations held each month

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